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W H Perrine  
JOURNAL W. H. Perrine

OF THE

GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

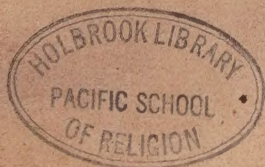
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD IN INDIANAPOLIS, IND.,

1856.

WITHDRAWN

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.



New-York:

PUBLISHED BY CARLTON & PORTER,

200 MULBERRY-STREET.

1856.

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO THE

GOVERNMENT OF THE

INDIAN TERRITORY

OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

BY

JOHN W. WALKER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AND

OF THE TERRITORY OF INDIANA



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# JOURNAL

OF THE

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

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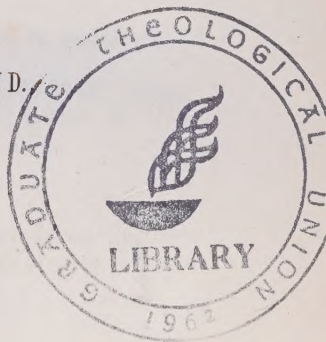
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From the library of the late  
Rev. Wm. H. Perrine D.D. of the  
Michigan Conference, presented  
by his daughters.

New-York:

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## LIST OF DELEGATES BY CONFERENCES.

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NEW-HAMPSHIRE.—Richard S. Rust, Warren F. Evans, Newel Culver, Charles N. Smith, James Thurston.

*Reserves.*—Lewis Howard, Silas Green.

NEW-YORK.—Davis W. Clark, Phineas Rice, Abiathar M. Osbon, Seymour Van Deusen, Morris D'C. Crawford, Benjamin Griffen, John B. Beach, Lucius H. King, Jarvis Z. Nichols.

*Reserves.*—Joseph Holdich, Davis Stocking, William H. Ferris.

TROY.—William Griffin, David P. Hulburd, Stephen D. Brown, Henry L. Starks, Andrew Witherspoon, Zebulon Phillips, Barnes M. Hall, Stephen Parks, Sandford Washburn.

*Reserves.*—Lewis Potter, C. R. Morris.

NEW-YORK EAST.—Edwin E. Griswold, James Floy, James H. Perry, John Kennaday, Heman Bangs, John M. Reid, John B. Merwin, William C. Hoyt.

*Reserves.*—Seymour Landon, William H. Norris.

CALIFORNIA.—John D. Blain, Isaac Owens.

*Reserves.*—Samuel D. Simonds, William Taylor.

MAINE.—Stephen Allen, Daniel B. Randall, Aaron Sanderson, William F. Farrington.

*Reserves.*—Joseph H. Jenne, Charles C. Cone, Howard B. Abbott.

VERMONT.—Asa G. Button, William J. Kidder, P. P. Ray, Alonzo Webster.

*Reserves.*—Joseph E. King, A. T. Bullard.

BLACK RIVER.—Arza J. Phelps, Hiram Mattison, Isaac S. Bingham, Gardner Baker, James Erwin, Freeman H. Stanton, Peter D. Gorris.

*Reserves.*—B. Holmes, H. Chapin.



WESTERN VIRGINIA.—Gideon Martin, James Drummond, Gordon Battelle.

*Reserves.*—William Lynch, William Hunter.

EAST MAINE.—Loren L. Knox, Caleb D. Pillsbury, George Pratt, Luther P. French.

PITTSBURGH.—Isaac N. Baird, William Cox, James Henderson, John Moffatt, William F. Lauck, Robert Boyd, Samuel Wakefield.

*Reserves.*—James G. Sansom, Thomas M. Hudson.

WYOMING.—George Peck, G. P. Porter, William H. Pearne, Horatio R. Clark.

*Reserves.*—D. A. Shepard, A. Barker.

ERIE.—Calvin Kingsley, Samuel Gregg, Josiah Flower, Hiram Kinsley, Moses Hill, William F. Wilson, Gaylord B. Hawkins.

*Reserves.*—E. J. Kinney, E. J. L. Baker.

ONEIDA.—Charles Blakeslee, Daniel W. Bristol, William Reddy, Charles Starr, Elias Bowen, Asa J. Dana, Isaac Parks.

*Reserves.*—Daniel A. Whedon, Silas Comfort.

EAST GENESEE.—William Hosmer, Calvin S. Coats, Freeborn G. Hibbard, Jonathan Watts, John Dennis, Jonas Dodge, Daniel D. Buck.

*Reserves.*—William H. Goodwin, Sevelen W. Alden.

OREGON.—William Roberts, Thomas H. Pearne.

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA.—Jacob M. Stallard, George M. Boyd, James L. Thompson, William Graham.

*Reserves.*—J. L. Smith, B. Winans.

GENESEE.—Thomas Carlton, Richard L. Waite, Isaac C. Kingsley, Charles D. Burlingham, Israel Chamberlayne.

*Reserves.*—A. P. Ripley, E. E. Chambers.

MICHIGAN.—James V. Watson, Elijah H. Pilcher, John K. Gillet, Wellington H. Collins, Resin Sapp, William H. Brockway, David Burns.

*Reserves.*—George Bradley, Erastus O. Haven.

OHIO.—Zechariah Connell, Joseph M. Trimble, Solomon Howard, James M. Jamison, Jacob Young, Uriah Heath.

*Reserves.*—Andrew Carrol, Frederic Merrick.

INDIANA.—Benjamin F. Crary, William C. Smith, James Hill, Henry S. Talbot.

*Reserves.*—Charles B. Davidson, William M. Daily.



NORTH INDIANA.—Samuel C. Cooper, Orange V. Lemon, George W. Bowers, Horatio N. Barnes.

*Reserves.*—Joseph H. Hull, J. Colclazer.

WISCONSIN.—Philo S. Bennett, Isaac M. Leihy, Edward Cooke, Chauncey Hobart, Elmore Yocum.

*Reserves.*—Henry Requa, Alfred Brunson.

ROCK RIVER.—George L. Mulfinger, Luke Hitchcock, John Luccock, Hooper Crews, S. P. Keyes, Henry Summers, Richard Haney, John Morey.

*Reserves.*—John Dempster, Philo Judson.

NORTH OHIO.—William L. Harris, Edward Thomson, John H. Power, James Wheeler, William B. Disbro, Adam Poe, Henry E. Pilcher, George W. Breckenridge.

*Reserves.*—Leonard B. Gurley, Hiram M. Shaffer.

CINCINNATI.—William Young, James B. Finley, William Nast, John W. Fowble, George W. Walker, Arza Brown, Cyrus Brooks, Asbury Lowrey, Mighil Dustin.

*Reserves.*—John T. Mitchell, Charles Elliott, William Ahrens.

IOWA.—Joseph Brooks, Henry W. Reed, Jacob G. Dimmitt, Lucien W. Berry, David Worthington.

*Reserves.*—William Simpson, M. H. Hare.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA.—Fernando C. Holliday, Enoch G. Wood, John A. Brouse, John Kissing, Calvin W. Ruter.

*Reserves.*—W. Terrell, J. W. Sullivan, J. Barth.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.—John Van Cleve, James Leaton, James B. Corrington.

*Reserves.*—Norman Allyn, W. Cliffe.

ILLINOIS.—Peter Cartwright, George Rutledge, Peter Kuhl, William D. R. Trotter, Hardin Wallace, Hiram Buck.

*Reserves.*—J. F. Jaquess, W. H. H. More.

KENTUCKY.—Stephen F. Conrey, Ajax H. Triplett.

*Reserve.*—William H. Black.

MISSOURI.—Joseph H. Hopkins, John M. Chivington.

*Reserves.*—B. F. Northcutt, N. Shumate.

ARKANSAS.—Anthony Bewley, Mark Robertson.

*Reserves.*—J. Harrar, S. H. Carlisle.

BALTIMORE.—John A. Collins, Henry Slicer, Samuel V. Blake, Nicholas J. B. Morgan, John S. Martin, Norval Wilson, Alfred Griffith, Thomas B. Sargent, Aquila A. Reese, John Lanahan, William Hamilton, John Poisal, Maberry Goheen, William Hirst, Benjamin N. Brown.

*Reserves.*—T. W. H. Monroe, George Hildt, Isaac Collins.

PHILADELPHIA.—John P. Durbin, Thomas J. Thompson, William Cooper, James Cunningham, Pennell Coombe, William M'Coombs, Francis Hodgson, George R. Crooks, Thomas J. Quigley.

*Reserves.*—J. A. Roche, J. T. Hazzard.

NEW-ENGLAND.—Minor Raymond, William Rice, James Porter, Lorenzo R. Thayer, Loranus Crowell, Thomas Marcy, Daniel K. Banister.

*Reserves.*—J. D. Bridge, J. H. Twombly, W. H. Hatch, M. Dwight.

PROVIDENCE.—Abel Stevens, Samuel W. Coggeshall, Daniel Wise, Pardon T. Kenny, Elisha B. Bradford, George M. Carpenter.

*Reserves.*—William Livesey, D. Patten, J. D. Butler.

NEW-JERSEY.—George F. Brown, John M'Clintock, Samuel Y. Monroe, Jefferson Lewis, John S. Porter, Isaac N. Felch, John S. Swaim, John L. Lenhart, William A. Wilmer.

*Reserves.*—James M. Tuttle, Samuel Vansant.



# JOURNAL

OF THE

## GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1856.

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THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 1.

THE TWELFTH DELEGATED GENERAL CONFERENCE of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH assembled at the State House in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana, on the first day of May, eighteen hundred and fifty-six:

May 1, 1856.

*Present*—Bishops WAUGH, MORRIS, JANES, SCOTT, SIMPSON, BAKER, and AMES.

At nine o'clock A. M., Bishop Waugh called the Conference to order, and conducted the opening religious services, consisting of reading the 46th, 47th, and 48th Psalms, singing the 218th hymn, and prayer. Bishop Morris continued the services by reading the fourth chapter of 1 Timothy, and the 219th hymn. After singing, James Porter, of New-England, and Jacob Young, of Ohio, again led the devotions of the Conference in prayer.

Opening of the Session.

On motion, Joseph M. Trimble was elected Secretary *pro tem.*, and Benjamin Griffen, Assistant Secretary *pro tem.*

Secretaries appointed *pro tempore*.  
Call of Conferences.  
Credentials presented.

The Conferences were then called in order, and certificates of election were presented by the following delegates:

### NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Richard S. Rust,	Newel Culver,
Warren F. Evans,	Charles N. Smith,
James Thurston.	

New Hampshire Delegates.

### NEW-YORK.

Davis W. Clark,	Morris D'C. Crawford,
Phineas Rice,	Benjamin Griffen,
Abiathar M. Osbon,	John B. Beach,
Seymour Van Deusen,	Lucius H. King,
Jarvis Z. Nichols.	

New-York Delegates.

May 1, 1856.  
Troy Delegates.

## TROY.

William Griffin,	Andrew Witherspoon,
David P. Hulburd,	Zebulon Phillips,
Stephen D. Brown,	Barnes M. Hall,
Henry L. Starks,	Stephen Parks,
Sandford Washburn.	

New-York East  
Delegates.

## NEW-YORK EAST.

Edwin E. Griswold,	Heman Bangs,
James Floy,	John M. Reid,
James H. Perry,	John B. Merwin,
John Kennaday,	William C. Hoyt.

California Dele-  
gates.

## CALIFORNIA.

John D. Blain,	Samuel D. Simonds.
----------------	--------------------

Maine Dele-  
gates.

## MAINE.

Stephen Allen,	Aaron Sanderson,
Daniel B. Randall,	William F. Farrington.

Vermont Dele-  
gates.

## VERMONT.

Asa G. Button,	Alonzo Webster,
William J. Kidder,	Joseph E. King.

Black River  
Delegates.

## BLACK RIVER.

Arza J. Phelps,	Gardner Baker,
Hiram Mattison,	James Erwin,
Isaac S. Bingham,	Freeman H. Stanton.

Western Virgin-  
ia Delegates.

## WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Gideon Martin,	James Drummond,
Gordon Battelle.	

East Maine Del-  
egates.

## EAST MAINE.

Loren L. Knox,	George Pratt,
Caleb D. Pillsbury,	Luther P. French.

Pittsburgh Del-  
egates.

## PITTSBURGH.

Isaac N. Baird,	John Moffatt,
William Cox,	William F. Lauck,
James Henderson,	Robert Boyd,
Samuel Wakefield.	

Wyoming Dele-  
gates.

## WYOMING.

George Peck,	William H. Pearne,
Horatio R. Clark.	



ERIE.

May 1, 1856.  
Erie Delegates.

Calvin Kingsley,	Hiram Kinsley,
Samuel Gregg,	Moses Hill,
Josiah Flower,	William F. Wilson,
Gaylord B. Hawkins.	

ONEIDA.

Oneida Delegates.

Charles Blakeslee,	Charles Starr,
Daniel W. Bristol,	Elias Bowen,
William Reddy,	Asa J. Dana,
Isaac Parks.	

EAST GENESEE.

East Genesee Delegates.

William Hosmer,	Jonathan Watts,
Calvin S. Coats,	John Dennis,
Freeborn G. Hibbard,	Jonas Dodge,
Daniel D. Buck.	

OREGON.

Oregon Delegates.

William Roberts,	Thomas H. Pearne.
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NORTHWESTERN INDIANA.

Northwestern Indiana Delegates.

Jacob M. Stallard,	James L. Thompson,
George M. Boyd,	William Graham.

GENESEE.

Genesee Delegates.

Thomas Carlton,	Isaac C. Kingsley,
Richard L. Waite,	Charles D. Burlingham,
Israel Chamberlayne.	

MICHIGAN.

Michigan Delegates.

James V. Watson,	Wellington H. Collins,
Elijah H. Pilcher,	William H. Brockway,
John K. Gillet,	Resin Sapp,
David Burns.	

OHIO.

Ohio Delegates.

Zechariah Connell,	James M. Jamison,
Joseph M. Trimble,	Jacob Young,
Solomon Howard,	Uriah Heath.

INDIANA.

Indiana Delegates.

Benjamin F. Crary,	James Hill,
William C. Smith,	Henry S. Talbot.

May 1, 1856.

North Indiana  
Delegates.

NORTH INDIANA.

Samuel C. Cooper,	George W. Bowers,
Orange V. Lemon,	Horatio N. Barnes.

Wisconsin Dele-  
gates.

WISCONSIN.

Philo S. Bennett,	Isaac M. Leihy,
Elmore Yocum.	

Rock River  
Delegates.

ROCK RIVER.

George L. Mulfinger,	Henry Summers,
Luke Hitchcock,	Richard Haney,
John Luccock,	John Morey,
Hooper Crews,	John Dempster.

North Ohio Del-  
egates.

NORTH OHIO.

William L. Harris,	William B. Disbro,
Edward Thomson,	Adam Poe,
John H. Power,	Henry E. Pilcher,
James Wheeler,	Leonard B. Gurley.

Cincinnati Dele-  
gates.

CINCINNATI.

William Young,	George W. Walker,
James B. Finley,	Arza Brown,
William Nast,	Cyrus Brooks,
John W. Fowble,	Asbury Lowrey.

Iowa Delegates.

IOWA.

Joseph Brooks,	Jacob G. Dimmitt,
Henry W. Reed,	Lucien W. Berry,
David Worthington.	

Southeastern  
Indiana Dele-  
gates.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA.

Fernando C. Holliday,	John A. Brouse,
Enoch G. Wood,	John Kisling,
Calvin W. Ruter.	

Southern Illi-  
nois Delegates

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

John Van Cleve,	James B. Corrington,
Norman Allyn.	

Illinois Dele-  
gates.

ILLINOIS.

Peter Cartwright,	William D. R. Trotter,
George Rutledge,	Hardin Wallace,
Peter Kuhl,	Hiram Buck.



KENTUCKY.

May 1, 1856.

Kentucky Delegates.

Stephen F. Conrey, Ajax H. Triplett.

MISSOURI.

Missouri Delegates.

Joseph H. Hopkins, John M. Chivington.

ARKANSAS.

Arkansas Delegates.

Anthony Bewley, Mark Robertson.

BALTIMORE.

Baltimore Delegates.

John A. Collins, Thomas B. Sargent,  
Henry Slicer, Aquila A. Reese,  
Samuel V. Blake, John Lanahan,  
Nicholas J. B. Morgan, William Hamilton,  
John S. Martin, John Poisal,  
Norval Wilson, Maberry Goheen,  
Alfred Griffith, William Hirst.  
Benjamin N. Brown.

PHILADELPHIA.

Philadelphia Delegates.

John P. Durbin, Pennell Coombe,  
Thomas J. Thompson, William M'Combs,  
William Cooper, Francis Hodgson,  
James Cunningham, George R. Crooks,  
Thomas J. Quigley.

NEW-ENGLAND.

New-England Delegates.

Minor Raymond, Lorenzo R. Thayer,  
William Rice, Loranus Crowell,  
James Porter, Thomas Marcy,  
Daniel K. Bannister.

PROVIDENCE.

Providence Delegates.

Samuel W. Coggeshall, Elisha B. Bradford,  
Daniel Wise, George M. Carpenter,  
Pardon T. Kenney, William Livesey.

NEW-JERSEY.

New-Jersey Delegates.

George F. Brown, John S. Porter,  
John M'Clintock, Isaac N. Felch,  
Samuel Y. Munroe, John S. Swaim.  
Jefferson Lewis, John L. Lenhart.  
William A. Wilmer.

- May, 1, 1856. On calling the list of delegates, two hundred and six members answered to their names; whereupon the chair announced that a quorum was present, and the Conference proceeded to business.
- Quorum present.
- Secretary to be elected by ballot. On motion, the Conference resolved to elect a Secretary by ballot.
- Tellers appointed. On motion, the chair was requested to appoint three Tellers to collect the ballots, canvass the votes, and report.  
Elijah H. Pilcher, Zebulon Phillips, and William D. R. Trotter were accordingly appointed.
- Election of Secretary. The tellers reported that the whole number of votes cast was two hundred and six; and that William L. Harris had received one hundred and thirteen; whereupon the President announced that William L. Harris, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was elected Secretary of this Conference.
- Afternoon session. On motion, *Resolved*, That when the Conference adjourn, it adjourn to meet at three o'clock this afternoon.
- Time of opening and closing the sessions. It was moved that the Conference meet daily at eight o'clock in the morning.  
A motion was made to amend, by substituting half past eight instead of eight o'clock; but the motion to amend did not prevail, and the original motion was carried.  
On motion, *Resolved*, That hereafter the Conference adjourn at twelve o'clock.  
On motion of Davis W. Clark, the following resolutions were adopted, namely:
- Resolutions relating to Daily Western Christian Advocate. *Resolved*, 1, That this Conference approve the proposed publication of the Daily Western Christian Advocate, during the session of the Conference, by the Western Book Agents; and that the said agents be authorized to take such measures as may be necessary to carry out the proposed publication.  
*Resolved*, 2, That the Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and they are hereby requested to furnish each delegate with a copy of the Daily Christian Advocate, gratuitously.
- Leroy Swormstedt addressed the Conference on the subject of the Daily Christian Advocate; after which, a motion was made that the Agents furnish the delegates at their residences with a copy of the paper; but the motion did not prevail.
- Adjournment. Conference adjourned with the benediction by Heman Bangs.



THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

May 1, 1856.  
Afternoon session.

Conference met, pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Morris in the chair. Religious services, consisting of reading the Scripture, singing, and prayer, were conducted by Heman Bangs, of the New-York East Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Journal approved.  
Chauncey Hobart takes his seat as delegate.  
Election of three Assistant Secretaries.

Chauncey Hobart presented his certificate of election as a delegate from the Wisconsin Conference, and took his seat.

Heman Bangs moved that Benjamin Griffen be elected first Assistant Secretary. John A. Collins moved as a substitute that the Conference proceed to choose, by ballot, three Assistant Secretaries, who shall take precedence respectively, in the order of the number of votes each may receive; and the substitute was adopted.

On motion, the tellers who acted in the election of Secretary, were requested to serve also in the election of Assistant Secretaries. A ballot was cast, and the Conference directed the tellers to retire, count the votes, and report the result.

James Porter offered a resolution providing for the appointment of several standing committees. Pending its consideration, Heman Bangs proposed a substitute, which was accepted by the mover of the resolution, and was adopted, as follows:

Standing committees ordered.

*Resolved*, That the following standing committees be appointed, viz.:

1. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on the Episcopacy. Episcopacy.
2. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on the Itinerancy. Itinerancy.
3. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Boundaries. Boundaries.
4. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Slavery. Slavery.
5. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on the Book Concern. Book Concern.
6. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Missions. Missions.
7. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Education. Education.
8. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on the Tract Cause. Tract Cause.
9. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Sunday Schools. Sunday Schools.
10. A committee to consist of one member from each annual conference, to be called the Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business. Revisals and Unfinished Business.

*Resolved*, That the above committees be chosen by the delegates of each annual conference from among themselves, and that each committee, when chosen, have power to appoint its own chairman.

Committees to be chosen by the Delegations severally.

- May 1, 1856.  
Committee on Temperance. *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on Temperance.
- Committee on Bible Cause. *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on the Bible Cause.
- Committee on Temporal Economy. *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on Temporal Economy.
- Committee on Expenses of Delegates. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed, to be called the Committee on the Expenses of Delegates; whose duty it shall be to receive all moneys raised to defray the expenses of the delegates to this Conference, ascertain the amount of expenses, and settle with the delegates.
- A German Delegate to be added to certain committees. On motion of William Nast, it was ordered that a German brother, to be nominated by the German delegates, be added to committees, severally, on Boundaries, on the Book Concern, and on Missions.
- Nine members of a committee to constitute a quorum. On motion it was *Resolved*, That nine members of such committees as consist of a delegate from each annual conference, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- Committee on Public Worship. On motion of Calvin W. Ruter, the presiding elders of the Indianapolis districts, and the preachers stationed in the city, were appointed a committee to make all necessary arrangements for conducting public worship during the session of this Conference.
- Assistant Secretaries elected. The tellers reported, as the result of the ballot, that there were 196 votes cast; that Benjamin Griffen received 178; Samuel D. Simonds, 125; and John S. Martin, 115; and they were declared duly elected Assistant Secretaries.
- Committee to report rules. A committee of three was ordered, whose duty it shall be to report, to-morrow morning, rules of order for the government of the Conference during its session; and the chair announced Isaac Parks, James H. Perry, and Calvin W. Ruter said committee.
- Committee on Pastoral Address ordered. On motion it was *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the chair to draw up and report a suitable Pastoral Address, to be issued by this General Conference to the membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Committee on Colored Members ordered. On motion of John A. Collins, it was ordered that a committee of seven be appointed, to be called the Committee on our Colored Members.
- Adjournment. Conference adjourned. Benediction by Bishop Morris.



May 2, 1856.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 2, 1856.

Conference met this morning : Bishop Janes in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by John Van Cleve, of the Southern Illinois Conference; after which the roll of members was called.

Mighil Dustin presented his certificate of election as a delegate from the Cincinnati Conference, and took his seat.

Mighil Dustin takes his seat as delegate.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

John S. Porter offered a preamble and resolutions, fixing the bar of the Conference, inviting officers of the General Conference, such as book agents and editors, not members of the Conference, to seats within the bar, and providing for such a distribution of seats within the Conference room, as will secure to each delegation an opportunity of having its members seated near each other.

J. S. Porter's preamble and resolution.

On motion, the preamble and resolutions were laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to return to such members as may desire them, their certificates of election as delegates to this body.

Certificates of delegates to be returned.

The committee appointed for that purpose, reported rules of order for the government of the Conference during its present session.

Rules of order for the government of the General Conference reported.

After the report was read, the Conference resolved to take up the rules *seriatim*.

The first, second, and third rules were read and adopted.

The fourth rule was read, and a motion was made to strike out the words "at the same time."

A further amendment was offered to strike out the words, "but any member may decline serving on more than one committee at the same time," which latter amendment prevailed, and the rule as amended was then adopted.

The fifth rule was read and adopted.

The sixth rule was read, and a motion was made to amend it by inserting, after the word "*mover*," the words, "with the consent of the second."

A motion was made to substitute for this amendment, the words "with the consent of the conference."

On motion, both the amendment and substitute were laid on the table, and the rule as reported was adopted.

The seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thir-

May 2, 1856.

teenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth rules were read and adopted.

After the eighteenth rule was read, it was on motion amended, by inserting after the word "Conference" the words, "except in cases in which character is involved."

After a motion to strike the whole rule out of the report was lost, the rule as amended was adopted.

The nineteenth rule was read, after which, a motion was made so to amend it, that it shall read thus, "a substitute may be amended before being accepted by the Conference."

A motion was made to strike out the whole rule, but the motion was laid on the table.

The amendment prevailed, and the rule as amended was adopted.

Rules of order  
as adopted.

On motion, the rules as a whole were then adopted as follows, viz.:

#### RULES.

1. The Conference shall meet at eight o'clock A. M., and adjourn at twelve M., but may alter their time of meeting, and adjourn at their discretion.

2. The President shall take the chair precisely at the hour to which the Conference stood adjourned, and cause the same to be opened by the reading of the Scriptures, singing, and prayer; and on the appearance of a quorum, shall have the Journals of the preceding day read and approved, when the business of the Conference shall proceed in the following order, namely:

1st. *Reports*, first of the standing, and then of the select committees.

2d. *Petitions, memorials, and appeals.*

3. The President shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Conference; but in case of such appeal, the question shall be taken without debate.

4. He shall appoint all committees, not otherwise specially ordered by the Conference.

5. All motions or resolutions introduced by any member shall be reduced to writing, if the President, Secretary, or any two members request it.

6. When a motion or resolution is made and seconded, or a report presented, and is read by the Secretary, or stated by the President, it shall be deemed in possession of the Conference, but any motion or resolution may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before decision or amendment.

7. No new motion or resolution shall be made until the one under consideration is disposed of; which may be done by adoption or rejection, unless one of the following motions should intervene, which motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are placed, namely: indefinite postponement; laying on the table; reference to a committee; postponement to a given time; amendment, or a substitute, which also may be amended.

8. No member shall be interrupted when speaking, except by the President, to call him to order, when he departs from the question, or uses personalities or disrespectful language; but any

member may call the attention of the President to the subject, when he deems a speaker out of order; and any member may explain, if he thinks himself misrepresented.

May 2, 1856.

9. When any member is about to speak in debate, or to deliver any matter to the Conference, he shall rise in his seat, and respectfully address himself to the President.

10. No person shall speak more than twice on the same question, nor more than fifteen minutes at one time, without leave of the Conference; nor shall any person speak more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

11. When any motion or resolution shall have passed, it shall be in order for any member who voted in the majority, to move a reconsideration.

12. No member shall absent himself from the service of the Conference, without leave, unless he is sick, or unable to attend.

13. No member shall be allowed to vote on any question, who is not within the bar at the time when such question is put by the President, except by leave of the Conference, when such member has been necessarily absent.

14. Every member who shall be within the bar at the time the question is put, shall give his vote, unless the Conference for special reasons excuse him.

15. No resolution altering or rescinding any rule of Discipline, shall be adopted until it shall have been at least one day in the possession of the Conference.

16. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, and shall be decided without debate.

17. It shall be in order for any member to call for the yeas and nays upon any question before the Conference; and if the call be sustained by twenty-five of the members present, the vote thereon shall be taken by yeas and nays.

18. It shall be in order to move that the question be taken without further debate, on any measure pending before the General Conference, except in cases in which character is involved, and if sustained by a vote of two thirds, the question shall be so taken.

19. A substitute may be amended before being accepted by the Conference.

The following resolution, offered by John Kennaday, was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That we gratefully appreciate the courtesy of the Legislature of this state, by which the use of this hall was appropriated for the session of this Conference, and reciprocating this courtesy, we invite his Excellency the Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to take seats within the bar of the Conference.

Resolution appreciating the courtesy of the Indiana Legislature.

Hiram Mattison offered the following resolutions, and they were adopted by the Conference, namely :

*Resolved*, That the editors of the several General Conference papers, with the editor of Zion's Herald, be a Committee on Printing.

Committee on printing.

*Resolved*, That they be instructed to publish in pamphlet form the rules of the Conference, together with the standing and other principal committees, and, if practicable, the boarding places of the delegates, for the use of this body.

Rules of Conference and standing committees to be published.



May 2, 1856.

On motion of Calvin W. Ruter, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Superintendents requested to deliver their address.

*Resolved*, That the Superintendents be and they are hereby respectfully requested to deliver their quadrennial address, should it suit their convenience, on to-morrow, Saturday, at 10 o'clock A. M.

On motion of Heman Bangs, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Resolution on referring petitions, &c.

*Resolved*, That every brother, on presenting any petition, or memorial, or other paper, which is to go to some one of the standing committees, shall designate to which committee he would have it referred; and if there be no objection made, it shall be so referred without any vote being taken thereon.

Bar of Conference.

The space in this hall within the front pillars was designated as the bar of the Conference.

British Delegates introduced to the Conference.

The Bishops having received information of the arrival in the city of the Rev. Dr. Hannah, representative of the British Wesleyan Conference, and also of the Rev. Frederic James Jobson, his companion and assistant, Bishops Baker and Ames waited upon them, and accompanied them to the conference room; whereupon Bishop Waugh took the chair, and in a brief address, introduced them to the Conference.

Address from British Conference presented.

An address from the British Wesleyan Conference was presented and read; after which Dr. Hannah and the Rev. Mr. Jobson addressed the Conference. [For the address, see *Appendix B.*]

John A. Collins submitted the following resolution, which was adopted, namely:

Cordial greetings extended to the representatives of the British Wesleyan Conference.

*Resolved*, by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Conference assembled, That we hereby extend to the distinguished representative of the British Wesleyan Conference, the Rev. Dr. Hannah, and to his companion and assistant, the Rev. Frederic James Jobson, our cordial and fraternal greetings; that we respond to the kind and affectionate expressions they convey to us from the venerable body they represent; and that we unite with them in their prayer that the union between the Wesleyan connection in Great Britain and the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, may continue unbroken, and that peace may remain undisturbed perpetually between the two great countries; and in further token of our regard and confidence, we invite them to take seats upon the platform, and express their opinions and counsel on any question which may be under discussion in this body, at their discretion.

A committee to reply to the address of the British Conference.

On motion of James Porter, Conference ordered that the address presented by the representative of the Wesleyan Connection, be referred to a committee of five, to prepare an address in reply thereto.

Standing committees announced.

Bishop Janes resumed the chair, and the following standing committees were announced, to wit:

ON EPISCOPACY.

May 2, 1856.  
Committee on  
Episcopacy.

Richard S. Rust,	Henry S. Talbot,
Phineas Rice,	Samuel C. Cooper,
Barnes M. Hall,	Isaac M. Leihy,
John Kennaday,	John Dempster,
Samuel D. Simonds,	John H. Power,
Daniel B. Randall,	James B. Finley,
Amasa G. Button,	Joseph Brooks,
Gardner Baker,	Calvin W. Ruter,
William Cox,	James B. Corrington,
George Peck,	Peter Cartwright,
Calvin Kingsley,	Stephen F. Conrey,
Gideon Martin,	Joseph H. Hopkins,
Elias Bowen,	Anthony Bewley,
Jonas Dodge,	Alfred Griffith,
James L. Thompson,	Thomas J. Thompson,
William Roberts,	Daniel K. Bannister,
Israel Chamberlayne,	William Livesey,
Elijah H. Pilcher,	George F. Brown,
Jacob Young,	Caleb B. Pillsbury.

ON ITINERANCY.

Committee on  
Itinerancy.

James Thurston,	Zechariah Connell,
Davis W. Clark,	William C. Smith,
Zebulon Phillips,	George W. Bowers,
James Floy,	Elmore Yocum,
John D. Blain,	John Luccock,
Daniel B. Randall,	Adam Poe,
William J. Kidder,	George W. Walker,
James Erwin,	Jacob G. Dimmitt,
Gordon Battelle,	John A. Brouse,
Luther P. French,	Norman Allyn,
James Henderson,	Hiram Buck,
Horatio R. Clark,	Ajax H. Triplett,
William F. Wilson,	John M. Chivington,
William Reddy,	Mark Robinson,
Freeborn G. Hibbard,	Norval Wilson,
Thomas H. Pearne,	Francis Hodgson,
Jacob M. Stallard,	Thomas Marcy,
Isaac C. Kingsley,	George M. Carpenter,
John K. Gillet,	William A. Wilmer.

May 2, 1856.  
Committee on  
Boundaries.

## ON BOUNDARIES.

Warren F. Evans,	Uriah Heath,
Benjamin Griffen,	James Hill,
David P. Hulburd,	Orange V. Lemon,
Samuel D. Simonds,	Chauncey Hobart,
Aaron Sanderson,	Richard Haney,
Joseph E. King,	Henry E. Pilcher,
Heman Bangs,	Cyrus Brooks,
Freeman H. Stanton,	David Worthington,
James Drummond,	Fernando C. Holliday,
George Pratt,	John Van Cleve,
John Moffatt,	Peter Cartwright,
William H. Pearne,	Stephen F. Conrey,
Hiram Kinsley,	Joseph H. Hopkins,
Charles Starr,	Mark Robertson,
Calvin S. Coats,	N. J. B. Morgan,
William Roberts,	William M'Combs,
George M. Boyd,	Loranus Crowell,
Thomas Carlton,	Pardon T. Kinney,
David Burns,	John L. Lenhart,
George L. Mulfinger.	

Committee on  
Slavery.

## ON SLAVERY.

Warren F. Evans,	Zechariah Connell,
Morris D'C. Crawford,	Henry S. Talbot,
Andrew Witherspoon,	Horatio N. Barnes,
Edwin E. Griswold,	Philo S. Bennett,
John D. Blain.	Luke Hitchcock,
William F. Farrington,	William B. Disbro,
Alonzo Webster,	Asbury Lowry,
Isaac S. Bingham,	Henry W. Reed,
James Drummond,	John Kisling,
Loren L. Knox,	John Van Cleve,
Robert Boyd,	Peter Cartwright,
Horatio R. Clark,	Ajax H. Triplett,
Calvin Kingsley,	Joseph H. Hopkins,
Elias Bowen,	Mark Robertson,
William Hosmer,	John A. Collins,
Thomas H. Pearne,	John P. Durbin,
George M. Boyd,	Minor Raymond,
Isaac C. Kingsley,	Daniel Wise,
Resin Sapp,	Jefferson Lewis.



ON THE BOOK CONCERN.

May 2, 1856.  
Committee on  
Book Concern.

James Thurston,	William Young,
Abiathar M. Osbon,	James M. Trimble,
Stephen D. Brown,	Benjamin F. Crary,
James H. Perry,	George W. Bowers,
Samuel D. Simonds,	Edward Cook,
Stephen Allen,	Hooper Crews,
Amasa G. Button,	Leonard B. Gurley,
Arza J. Phelps,	Lucien W. Berry,
James Drummond,	Fernando C. Holliday,
Caleb D. Pillsbury,	Norman Allyn,
Isaac N. Baird,	William D. R. Trotter.
George Peck,	Ajax H. Triplett,
Gaylord B. Hawkins,	John M. Chivington,
Daniel W. Bristol,	Anthony Bewley,
John Dennis,	Henry Slicer,
Thomas H. Pearne,	Pennell Coombe,
William Graham,	James Porter,
Richard L. Waite,	Daniel Wise,
James V. Watson,	John S. Porter,
William Nast.	

On motion, the session was prolonged to complete the announcement of the large committees.

Session prolonged.

ON MISSIONS.

Committee on  
Missions.

Charles N. Smith,	Thomas H. Pearne,
Jarvis Z. Nichols,	William Graham,
William Griffin,	Charles D. Burlingham,
William C. Hoyt,	William H. Brockway,
John D. Blain,	Solomon Howard,
Daniel B. Randall,	William C. Smith,
William J. Kidder,	Orange V. Lemon,
Freeman H. Stanton,	Isaac M. Leihy,
Gideon Martin,	Henry Summers,
George Pratt,	James Wheeler,
William F. Lauck,	William Nast,
William H. Pearne,	Henry W. Reed,
Josiah Flower,	Enoch G. Wood,
Asa J. Dana,	James B. Corrington,
Jonathan Watts,	Hiram Buck,

May 2, 1856.

Stephen F. Conrey,	John P. Durbin,
Joseph H. Hopkins,	Lorenzo R. Thayer,
Anthony Bewley,	Samuel W. Coggeshall,
William Hamilton,	John S. Swaim,
Philip Kuhl.	

Committee on  
Education.

## ON EDUCATION.

Richard S. Rust,	Solomon Howard,
D. W. Clark,	Benjamin F. Crary,
William Griffin,	Horatio N. Barnes,
John B. Merwin,	Edward Cook,
Samuel D. Simonds,	John Dempster,
Stephen Allen,	Edward Thomson,
Joseph E. King,	Asbury Lowry,
Hiram Mattison,	Lucien W. Berry,
Gordon Battelle,	Calvin W. Ruter,
Loren L. Knox,	John Van Cleve,
John Barker,	William D. R. Trotter,
Horatio R. Clark,	Ajax H. Triplett,
Moses Hill,	John M. Chivington,
Charles Blakeslee,	Anthony Bewley,
Daniel D. Buck,	Thomas B. Sargent,
William Roberts,	George R. Crooks,
George M. Boyd,	William Rice,
Richard L. Waite,	William Livesey,
David Burns,	John M'Clintock.

Committee on  
Tract cause.

## ON THE TRACT CAUSE.

Charles N. Smith,	Jonas Dodge,
John B. Beach,	Thomas H. Pearne,
Henry L. Starks,	James L. Thompson,
James Floy,	Charles D. Burlingham,
John D. Blain,	William H. Brockway,
William F. Farrington,	Uriah Heath,
Alonzo Webster,	James Hill,
Arza J. Phelps,	George W. Bowers,
Gordon Battelle,	Chauncey Hobart,
George Pratt,	Henry Summers,
Isaac N. Baird,	John H. Power,
William H. Pearne,	John W. Fowble,
Moses Hill,	Joseph Brooks,
Daniel W. Bristol,	John A. Brouse,

Norman Allyn,  
Philip Kuhl,  
Ajax A. Triplett,  
Joseph H. Hopkins,  
Mark Robertson,

Samuel V. Blake,  
James Cunningham,  
Minor Raymond,  
Elisha B. Bradford,  
Isaac N. Felch.

May 2, 1856.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Newell Culver,  
Seymour Van Deusen,  
Stephen Parks,  
John M. Reid,  
Samuel D. Simonds,  
Aaron Sanderson,  
William J. Kidder,  
James Erwin,  
Gideon Martin,  
Luther P. French,  
William Cox,  
George Peck,  
Samuel Gregg,  
Charles Blakeslee,  
Jonathan Watts,  
William Roberts,  
William Graham,  
Thomas Carlton,  
John K. Gillet,

Joseph M. Trimble,  
William C. Smith,  
Orange V. Lemon,  
Elmore Yocum,  
Luke Hitchcock,  
James Wheeler,  
Arza Brown,  
David Worthington,  
John Kisling,  
Norman Allyn,  
Hardin Wallace,  
Stephen F. Conrey,  
John M. Chivington,  
Anthony Bewley,  
William Hirst,  
William Cooper,  
William Rice,  
Pardon S. Kenney,  
Samuel Y. Munroe.

Committee on  
Sunday  
Schools.

ON REVISALS.

Newell Culver,  
Lucius H. King,  
Sandford Washburn,  
Heman Bangs,  
John D. Blain,  
Aaron Sanderson,  
Amasa G. Button,  
Hiram Mattison,  
Gordon Battelle,  
Caleb D. Pillsbury,  
Samuel Wakefield,  
William H. Pearne,  
Hiram Kinsley,  
Isaac Parks,

Freeborn G. Hibbard,  
William Roberts,  
Jacob M. Stallard,  
Israel Chamberlayne,  
Wellington H. Collins,  
James M. Jamison,  
Benjamin F. Crary,  
Horatio N. Barnes,  
Philo S. Bennett,  
John Morey,  
Edward Thomson,  
Mighil Dustin,  
Jacob G. Dimmitt,  
Enoch G. Wood,

Committee on  
Revisals.



May 2, 1856.

James B. Corrington,  
George Rutledge,  
Stephen F. Conrey,  
John M. Chivington,  
Mark Robertson,

John Poisal,  
Thomas J. Quigley,  
Lorenzo R. Thayer,  
Samuel W. Coggeshall,  
John M'Clintock.

Adjournment.

These committees being filled, Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by Rev. Dr. Hannah.

## SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 3, 1856.

May 3, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Scott in the chair.  
The usual religious services were conducted by George Peck, of the Wyoming Conference.

Calling of roll  
dispensed  
with.

On motion, it was agreed to dispense with calling the roll for the remainder of the session.

Journals of yesterday were read and approved.

The President, in conformity to the rule, called for the reports of committees, but none were presented.

Call for petitions  
and memorials.

Petitions and memorials were called for, and Richard S. Rust presented a memorial from Concord Station, New-Hampshire Conference, on Slavery, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

N. HAMPSHIRE.  
Slavery.  
Concord.

N. YORK EAST.  
Presiding El-  
dership.  
Allen-street.  
Thirty-sev-  
enth-street.

James Floy presented two memorials on the subject of the Presiding Eldership; one from official members of Allen-street Church, and the other from official members of the Thirty-seventh-street Church, New-York East Conference, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Motion to print  
Allen-street  
memorial.

A motion was made by Norval Wilson to print the memorial from Allen-street Church in the *Daily Western Christian Advocate*. Henry Slicer moved to amend by adding, "with the names of the signers." Peter Cartwright moved to lay the whole subject of printing the memorial on the table, but the motion was lost.

Previous ques-  
tion ordered.

On motion of James Drummond, the previous question was ordered; 125 voting for it and 60 against it.

Previous ques-  
tion applies to  
all substitutes  
and amend-  
ments, as well  
as to the origi-  
nal motion.

A point of order was raised by John A. Collins, as to whether the previous question applies to the original motion as well as to the amendment. The chair decided that it applied to both the amendment and the original motion.

Appeal from de-  
cision of the  
chair. Chair  
sustained.

John P. Durbin appealed from the decision of the chair. The question was then put, "Shall the decision of the chair

stand as the judgment of the Conference?" and it was answered affirmatively.

May 8, 1856.

The amendment prevailed; and the motion as amended was carried; 113 voting in favor of it, and 99 against it.

On motion of John S. Porter, who voted in the affirmative, the action of the Conference ordering the printing of the memorial with the names of signers, was reconsidered, 130 voting in favor of reconsideration.

Vote to print reconsidered.

On motion of Adam Poe, the amendment offered by Henry Slicer, ordering the printing of names, was stricken out, and the original motion was carried.

Motion to print amended and adopted.

Edward Cook, of the Wisconsin Conference, and Anthony Bewley, of the Arkansas Conference, presented their certificates of election as delegates to this body, and took their seats.

Edward Cook and Anthony Bewley take their seats.

Appointments for preaching on Sabbath were announced by B. F. Crary.

The hour of ten o'clock having arrived, the Conference proceeded to the order of the day, as indicated by resolution of yesterday; and Bishop Janes read the Quadrennial Address of the General Superintendents to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. [For Address, see *Appendix A.*]

Quadrennial Address of the Bishops read.

On motion of John A. Collins, so much of the Episcopal Address as relates to the Episcopacy was referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy; so much as relates to the Itinerancy was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; so much as relates to our Publications was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern; so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery; so much as relates to the subject of Missions was referred to the Committee on Missions; so much as relates to the subject of Education was referred to the Committee on Education; so much as relates to the Tract Cause was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause; so much as relates to Sunday Schools was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools; so much as relates to a Court of Trials and Appeals was referred to a select committee of seven.

Referred to Committee on Episcopacy.

Itinerancy.

Book Concern.  
Slavery.

Missions.  
Education.

Tract cause.  
Sunday schools.  
Trials and appeals to a select committee of seven.

A motion was made by John A. Collins, to refer so much of the Episcopal Address as relates to Biblical Institutes, to the Committee on Education. Norval Wilson moved as a substitute, that it be referred to a select committee of seven. The substitute was lost, 88 voting for it, and 103 against it. William Cox moved to amend, so as

Biblical institutes to Committee on Education.

- May 3, 1856. to refer the subject to a committee consisting of one from each conference, but the motion to amend did not prevail, after which the matter was referred to the Committee on Education.
- Revisals. On motion of John A. Collins, so much of the Episcopal Address as relates to the subject of Revisals was referred to the Committee on Revisals; and so much as relates to Africa was referred to the Committee on Missions.
- Africa, to Com-  
mittee on  
Missions. pro-  
Session longed. Conference agreed to prolong to-day's session till adjourned on motion.
- Bishops' Ad-  
dress to be  
printed. On motion of John A. Collins, the Committee on Printing was instructed to print one thousand copies of the Bishops' Address, in pamphlet form, for the use of this body, and that the pamphlets, when printed, shall be delivered at the Secretary's table, and by him distributed to the delegations pro rata. Also, it was ordered, that the Episcopal Address be printed in the General Conference papers.
- Place for Con-  
ference ses-  
sions. On motion of Freeborn G. Hibbard, a committee of three was ordered, whose duty it shall be to seek a more convenient place for the Conference to hold its sessions, and report on Monday morning. The chair announced F. G. Hibbard, J. A. Brouse, and Andrew Witherspoon, said committee.
- Leave of ab-  
sence granted  
to D. B. Ran-  
dall. Daniel B. Randall asked, and obtained leave of absence, till next Thursday.
- Duplicate cop-  
ies of papers  
for publication  
to be prepared. On motion, it was ordered that all parties presenting papers, which they desire published in the Daily Western Christian Advocate, shall furnish duplicate copies.
- Roll of mem-  
bers for yeas  
and nays, &c. On motion, the Secretary was directed to prepare rolls for taking the yeas and nays, and make all other arrangements necessary to the duties of his office.
- Adjournment. Notices were given, and Conference adjourned at 12½ o'clock, with the benediction by Bishop Waugh.

May 5, 1856.

## MONDAY MORNING, MAY 5th, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Baker in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by William F. Farrington, of the Maine Conference.

Journals of Saturday morning were read and approved.

S. D. Simonds  
declines serv-  
ing as Assist-  
ant Secretary.

The order of business was suspended to proceed to the election of an Assistant Secretary in the place of S. D. Simonds,



who declined serving, and also to the election of a fourth Assistant Secretary.

May 5, 1856.

After a motion to elect by ballot was laid on the table, the Conference proceeded to elect on nomination. Jefferson Lewis, W. H. Pearne, and James Hill were severally nominated, and Conference acted on the names in the order of nominations, and Jefferson Lewis and James Hill were elected.

A third and fourth Assistant Secretaries elected.

Peter D. Gorrie presented his certificate of election as a delegate from the Black River Conference, and took his seat.

P. D. Gorrie takes his seat.

On motion of John Kennaday, the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That Rev. Dr. Hannah and the Rev. Mr. Jobson, the representatives in this body of our beloved brethren of the Wesleyan Conference in Great Britain, be respectfully and affectionately requested to preach before the Conference at such periods as they may respectively designate, on consultation with the bishops.

Rev. Dr. Hannah and Rev. F. J. Jobson requested to preach.

The order of business was resumed, and the Committee on Rules of Order further reported, and the report was adopted as follows, namely :

Rule XX. All motions to postpone or to lay on the table shall be taken without debate.

Rule XX adopted.

The call for memorials and petitions was resumed. James Floy, of the New-York East Conference, presented sundry memorials on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, as follows, viz.: one from Greene-street; one from Second-street; one from Sullivan-street; one from Ninth-street; one from Willett-street, and one from the official members of Asbury, New-York city; one from Cook-street, Brooklyn; one from First Church, in Williamsburgh, N. Y.; and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Also a memorial from the New-York East Conference, in relation to the Smith Arnold Fund, and it was referred to a select committee of seven. Also a memorial on the Tract cause, and it was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause.

Call for memorials, &c.  
New-York East.  
Presiding Eldership.  
Greene-street.  
Second-street.  
Sullivan-street.  
Ninth-street.  
Willett-street.  
Asbury.  
Cook-street,  
Brooklyn.  
First Church,  
Williamsburgh.  
Referred.  
Smith Arnold Fund.  
Referred.  
Tract Cause.  
Referred.

On motion of John M. Reid, so much of the Journal of the New-York East Conference as relates to the extension of the time of ministerial service on circuits and stations, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Journal relating to extension of time of ministerial service.  
Referred.

Bishop Janes presented a memorial, with accompanying documents, from the Local Preachers' Association of New-York and Brooklyn, and it was read and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Local Preachers' Association of New-York and Brooklyn.  
Referred.

VERMONT CONFERENCE.—A. Webster presented memori-

VERMONT.

May 5, 1856.  
Slavery.  
Pomfret.  
St. Johnsbury.  
Northfield.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER.  
Presiding El-  
dership.  
Van Buren.  
Cato.

Syracuse.

Adams.  
Referred.  
Extension of  
time of minis-  
terial service.  
Adams.  
Referred.  
Slavery.  
Adams.  
Referred.

EAST MAINE.  
Slavery.  
Orleans.  
Dexter.  
Kilmarnock.  
Corinna.  
Referred.

VERMONT.  
Slavery.  
Waitsfield.  
Moretown.  
Randolph.  
Referred.

PITTSBURGH.  
Slavery.  
Summerfield.  
McConnellsville.  
McKendree.  
Sharon.  
Newport.  
Cumberland.

Referred.

Bolivar and  
Massillon ask  
to be set  
off from North  
Ohio to Pitts-  
burgh Confer-  
ence.  
Referred.

WYOMING.  
Boundaries.  
Bloomingdale.  
Referred.

ERIE.

als on Slavery; one from East Corinth Circuit; one from Worcester Station; one from Pomfret and East Pomfret Circuits; one from St. Johnsbury Station, and one from Northfield; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—A. J. Phelps presented sundry petitions relating to the Presiding Eldership, as follows, viz.: one from Van Buren, and one from Cato Circuit, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

J. Erwin presented a petition from Syracuse relating to the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Isaac S. Bingham presented a memorial from Adams, in relation to the Presiding Eldership, and one on removing the restrictions on the appointing power, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; also one from Adams on Slavery, which was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

EAST MAINE CONFERENCE.—C. D. Pillsbury presented sundry memorials on Slavery, namely: one from Orleans; one from Dexter; one from Kilmarnock and Lagrange; one from Corinth; one from Corinna; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

VERMONT CONFERENCE.—W. J. Kidder presented memorials on Slavery: one from Waitsfield; one from Moretown; one from Randolph; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE.—A memorial on Slavery from the Quarterly Conference of Summerfield Circuit, concurred in by M'Connellsville, M'Kendree, Sharon, Newport, and Cumberland Quarterly Conferences, and non-concurred in by Morgan, Salem, and Senecaville, was presented by James Henderson, and referred to the Committee on Slavery.

A memorial from members of the Church in Bolivar, Shanesville Circuit, North Ohio Conference, and one from Massillon, North Ohio Conference, asking that the foregoing appointments respectively be set off to the Pittsburgh Conference, were presented by William Cox, and referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

WYOMING CONFERENCE.—George Peck presented a petition from Bloomingdale Circuit, Baltimore Conference, on the subject of boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

ERIE CONFERENCE.—G. B. Hawkins presented a memo-

rial from the Quarterly Conference of Cuyahoga Falls Station, and Northampton Mission, in relation to extending the time of ministerial service, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals. Moses Hill presented a memorial from the Quarterly Conference of Wilmington Circuit, on the Ritual of Baptism, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

ONEIDA CONFERENCE.—Isaac Parks, presented a memorial from Utica Welsh Mission, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions.

Elias Bowen presented a memorial from official members of Lisle Circuit, asking a transfer of said circuit from the Oneida to the Wyoming Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

D. W. Bristol presented a memorial from sixty-four ladies, members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, on Lenox Circuit, on Slavery, which was referred to the Committee on Slavery; and one from forty-three male members of the same circuit, on the same subject, which was referred to the same committee.

W. Reddy presented a memorial from Ames on the Presiding Eldership, which was read, and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

OREGON CONFERENCE.—On motion of Thos. H. Pearne, so much of the Journal of Oregon Conference as relates to a Book and Tract Depository was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern, and so much as refers to a change in the method of taking our numerical statistics was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

William Roberts presented a memorial of the Publishing Committee of the Pacific Christian Advocate, which was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—R. L. Waite presented a memorial from Warsaw on Slavery, and I. Chamberlayne presented one on Slavery from Knowlesville, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

OHIO CONFERENCE.—J. M. Trimble presented the report of a committee made to the Ohio Conference, on finance, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy; and one on the education of colored youth was referred to a select committee of seven.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.—B. F. Crary presented a memorial in relation to Conrad Muth, from Indiana Conference,

May 5, 1856.

Extension of  
time of min-  
isterial service.  
Cuyahoga Falls.  
Northampton.  
Referred.  
Ritual of Bap-  
tism.  
Wilmington.  
Referred.  
ONEIDA.  
Utica Welsh  
Mission.  
Referred.

Lisle Circuit  
asks a trans-  
fer to Wyo-  
ming Con-  
ference.  
Referred.

Slavery.

Lenox.  
Referred.

Presiding Elder-  
ship.  
Ames.  
Referred.

OREGON.  
Journal on Tract  
Cause.  
Book Concern.  
Statistics.  
Referred.

GENESEE.  
Slavery.  
Warsaw.  
Knowlesville.  
Referred.

OHIO.  
Finance.  
Referred.  
Education of  
colored youth.  
Referred.

INDIANA.  
Conrad Muth.

May 5, 1856.

Journal of South  
eastern Indi-  
ana.

Referred.

Journal relating  
to the German  
work.

Referred.

Journal on  
boundaries.

Referred.

NORTHWESTERN  
INDIANA.

Class-meetings.

Referred.

Slavery.

Referred.

Publishing  
house in Chi-  
cago.

Referred.

NORTH INDIANA

Journal on

Slavery.

Referred.

WISCONSIN.

Slavery.

Council Hill.

Referred.

Division of Con-

ference.

Referred.

ROCK RIVER.

W. J. Smith on

lost money.

Referred.

Journal on

boundaries.

Referred.

NORTH OHIO.

Journal on

boundaries.

Referred.

Slavery.

Referred.

Finance.

Referred.

CINCINNATI.

Journal on the

increase of sala-

ry of preachers.

which, together with so much of the Journal of the South-eastern Indiana Conference as relates to the same matter, was referred to the Committee on Missions. Also, on motion of B. F. Crary, so much of the Journal of the Indiana Conference as relates to the German work was referred to the same committee.

On motion of W. C. Smith, so much of the Journal of the Indiana Conference as relates to boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.—G. M. Boyd presented a memorial from the Northwestern Indiana Conference on the subject of Class-meetings, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals; also, a report on Slavery from the Northwestern Indiana Conference, which was referred to the Committee on Slavery. William Graham presented a memorial from the Northwestern Indiana Conference in relation to a Publishing House in Chicago, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE.—On motion of O. V. Lemon, so much of the Journal of the North Indiana Conference as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—P. S. Bennett presented a memorial on Slavery from Council Hill Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery; also, a memorial presented by C. Hobart on Division of Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—A memorial from W. J. Smith, relating to loss of moneys belonging to the Book Concern, was presented by John Morey, and was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. On motion of R. Haney, so much of the Journal of Rock River Conference as relates to Boundaries, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.—On motion of W. B. Disbro, so much of the Journal as relates to Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries and so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of John H. Power, so much of the Journal as refers to Finance was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—On motion of William Young, so much of the Journal as relates to increase of the Salary



of Preachers was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy, and so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

May 5, 1856.  
Referred.  
Slavery.  
Referred.

On motion of A. Lowry, so much of the Journal as relates to the Discipline, in regard to Quarterage Claims, was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy; also, so much as relates to the Sabbath-school paper was referred to the Committee on Sabbath Schools; also, so much as relates to a College for Colored People was referred to the Committee on Education.

Quarterage claims.  
Referred.  
Sunday-school paper.  
Referred.  
College for Colored youth.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—On motion of E. H. Pilcher, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery, and so much as relates to Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

MICHIGAN.  
Journal on Slavery.  
Referred.  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

On motion of J. M. Trimble, the appeal of L. D. Harlan was made the order of the day for Thursday morning after the reading of the Journal.

Appeal of L. D. Harlan made the order of the day for Thursday morning.

The committee appointed to provide a more commodious place for our daily sessions, made their report, which was, on motion, postponed for the present.

Report of committee to secure a more commodious place for Conference sessions.

On motion, C. Hobart, of Wisconsin Conference, was excused from serving as a delegate for the remainder of the session, and H. Requa presented his credentials as a reserve delegate, which were read; and he took his seat, and was, on motion, appointed to the several committees instead of C. Hobart.

Postponed.  
C. Hobart excused for the remainder of the session, and H. Requa admitted in his stead.

IOWA CONFERENCE.—On motion of Joseph Brooks, so much of the Journals as relates to the subject of Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries, and so much as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

IOWA.  
Journal on Boundaries and Slavery.  
Referred.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.—On motion of C. W. Ruter, so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries, and so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA.  
Journal on Boundaries and Slavery.  
Referred.

F. C. Holliday presented a memorial from Lawrenceburgh Station, on constituting Sabbath-school Superintendents members of quarterly conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals; also, a memorial from preachers of Lawrenceburgh District Association, on the subject of Ministerial Support; and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

Sunday-school Superintendents.  
Referred.  
Ministerial Support.  
Memorial from Lawrenceburgh.  
Referred.

MAY 11, 1856.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

Sunday-school Superintendents.

Memorial from the Sunday-school

Convention of Annapolis.

Referred.

Slavery. Pulaski Mission. *Journal of the conference.*

Referred.

Illinois. Journal on Slavery.

Referred.

Appeal of D. J. Snow made the order of the day for Wednesday morning.

Referred.

Missouri.

Journal on a Kansas and Nebraska Conference, and on

Boundaries and the German work.

Referred.

Governor Wright introduced.

Referred.

Baltimore. Journal on Boundaries.

Referred.

Philadelphia. Revised Constitution of the

Missionary Society.

Referred.

Conference on the Tract Cause.

Referred.

Changes of the Discipline.

Referred.

Letter accrediting the Rev. L. S. Jacoby.

Referred.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—J. B. Corrington presented a memorial from the Sabbath-school Convention of Alton District, on the subject of making Sabbath-school Superintendents members of quarterly meeting conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals. Also, a memorial from Pulaski Mission, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery, and so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—On motion of Peter Cartwright, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the committee on that subject.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the appeal of D. J. Snow was made the order of the day for Wednesday morning immediately after the reading of the Journal.

On motion of W. D. R. Trotter, so much of the Illinois Conference Journal as relates to the Central Christian Advocate was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—On motion of J. H. Hopkins, so much of the Journal of the Missouri Conference as relates to a Kansas and Nebraska Conference, and to the German work, and to the Missouri Conference Boundary, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Bishop Baker introduced to the Conference his Excellency Joseph A. Wright, the Governor of the State of Indiana.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—On motion of H. Slicer, so much of the Journal of the Baltimore Conference as relates to the subject of Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.—J. P. Durbin presented a revised Constitution of the Missionary Society, from the Board of Managers of said society, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions. Also, a majority and a minority report of the Committee on the Tract Cause of the Philadelphia Conference, and they were referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause. Also, a memorial from the Philadelphia Conference on changes in the Discipline, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals. Also, a memorial from the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society, relating to the publishing agency in Germany, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions. Also, a letter accrediting Rev. L. S. Jacoby to this body. Also, a peti-

tion from the missionaries in Germany, praying for the organization of a Mission Annual Conference in Germany, and also for aid from the Book Concern, to publish books in Germany; and it was referred to the Committee on Missions.

May 3, 1856.  
German Annual  
Conference.  
Referred.  
Aid from the  
Book Concern.  
Referred.

Bishop Baker introduced L. S. Jacoby, Superintendent of Missions in Germany, to the Conference.

Rev. L. S. Jacoby introduced.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—Henry Slicer presented a memorial from members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, East Baltimore Station, in relation to boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

BALTIMORE.  
Memorial on  
boundaries,  
from East Baltimore.  
Referred.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—A memorial on Slavery from Ipswich, New-England Conference, was presented by L. H. Thayer; and it was read and referred to the Committee on Slavery. Also, a memorial on the same subject from Whittonsville Station. Also, one on the same subject from Weston; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NEW-ENGLAND  
Memorials on  
Slavery from  
Ipswich.

Whittonsville.  
Weston.  
Referred.

Minor Raymond presented a memorial from Greenfield; also, one from Princeton Station; also, one from Townsend Station; all relating to Slavery, and they were referred to the committee on that subject. Also, sundry memorials from the New-England Conference, asking various changes in the Discipline; and they were referred to the Committee on Revisals. Also, a memorial from the New-England Conference, in relation to dividing the missionary work, so that there shall be a Foreign and a Home Department, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions. Also, a memorial from the New-England Conference on Slavery and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorials on  
Slavery from  
Greenfield,  
Princeton,  
Townsend.  
Referred.  
Conference memorials on the changes in the Discipline.  
Dividing the mission work into Home and Foreign Departments, and on Slavery.  
Referred.

James Porter presented a memorial on Slavery from Roxbury, New-England Conference; also, one on the same subject from Hubbardston Station, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorials on  
Slavery, from  
Roxbury and  
Hubbardston.  
Referred.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE.—Daniel Wise presented a memorial from Duxbury, Providence Conference, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PROVIDENCE.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Duxbury.  
Referred.

P. T. Kenney presented a memorial on Slavery from Mansfield Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorial from  
Mansfield on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

On motion of S. W. Coggeshall, so much of the Journal of the Providence Conference as relates to Slavery was re-

Journal on  
Slavery and  
Tract cause.  
Referred.

May 5, 1856.

Memorials on  
Slavery from  
Fisherville,  
Pawtucket, and  
Scituate.  
Referred.

NEW-JERSEY.  
Journal on di-  
vision of Con-  
ference.  
On irregulari-  
ties at Hobo-  
ken, and on  
the relation of  
baptized child-  
ren to the  
Church.  
Referred.

Appeal of N.  
Stokeley made  
the order of the  
day for Friday  
morning.

Memorial from  
the Trustees of  
the Metropolitan  
Church.  
Referred.

Memorial on the  
Presiding El-  
dership.  
Referred.

NEW-HAMP-  
SHIRE.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Claremont Dis-  
trict Preachers'  
Association,  
Keene, North  
Charlestown,  
and Lebanon.  
Referred.

Memorials on  
the Presiding  
Eldership,  
from Clare-  
mont District  
Preachers' As-  
sociation, and  
Winchester.  
Referred.

NEW-YORK.  
Journal relating  
to the Smith  
Arnold Fund.  
Referred.

Journal relating  
to the exten-  
sion of time of  
ministerial ser-  
vice.  
Referred.

Memorial on the  
use of tobacco.  
Referred.

ferred to the Committee on Slavery ; and so much as relates to the Tract cause was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause.

George M. Carpenter presented memorials on the subject of Slavery from Fisherville, from Pawtucket, and from Scituate, severally, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE.—John M'Clintock presented the action of the New-Jersey Conference on the subject of division of the Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Also, a memorial from the New-Jersey Conference, relating to certain irregularities existing at Hoboken, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Also, a memorial from New-Jersey Conference on the relation of baptized children to the Church, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

On motion of J. M'Clintock, the appeal of Nehemiah Stokeley, of the New-Jersey Conference, was made the order of the day for Friday morning.

John M'Clintock presented a memorial from the Trustees of the proposed Metropolitan Church, and it was referred to a special committee of five.

Samuel Y. Monroe presented a memorial from W. R. Freeman, and eight others, on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.—Newel Culver presented a memorial from Claremont District Preachers' Association ; also one from Keene Station ; also one from North Charlestown Station ; and one from Lebanon Station, all on the subject of Slavery ; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Newel Culver also presented a memorial from Claremont District Preachers' Association, and one from Winchester, both on the subject of the Presiding Eldership ; and they were referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.—On motion of Phineas Rice, so much of the Journal as relates to the Smith Arnold Fund was referred to a special committee of seven ; also so much of the Journal as relates to the extension of the time of ministerial service on Circuits and Stations, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy ; also a memorial from Brooklyn, Long Island, from J. T. Hildreth, on the use of tobacco, which was, at the instance of P. Rice, referred to the Committee on Slavery.



On motion of Phineas Rice, the appeal of Eli Denniston, of the New-York Conference, was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning, after the reading of the Journal.

TROY CONFERENCE.—On motion of Andrew Witherspoon, so much of the Journal of the Troy Conference as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery; so much as relates to changes in the Discipline, to the Committee on Revisals, and so much of the Journal as relates to boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Barnes M. Hall presented a memorial from East Chatham, on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

D. P. Hulburt presented a memorial on Slavery from Monkton, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—William H. Brockway presented a memorial from members of the Church in the counties of Jackson and Eaton Rapids, one from Parma Circuit, and one from Tompkins and Spring Port, all on the subject of Slavery; and they were referred to the committee on that subject.

On motion, it was agreed to hold an afternoon session, commencing at 3 o'clock.

J. M. Jamison, of the Ohio Conference, asked and obtained leave of absence till Thursday morning, on account of sickness in his family.

The Book Agents at New-York presented their quadrennial report, which was read and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix L*.]

At five minutes before 12 A. M., it was agreed that the present session be prolonged till adjourned on motion.

On motion of S. D. Simonds, the original documents referred to in the Report of the New-York Book Agents, relating to the California Advocate, were referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

The Chairmen and Secretaries of the Standing Committees were announced as follows, namely:

*On Episcopacy.*

JOHN KENNADAY, N. Y. East Conference, Chairman.

ELIJAH H. PILCHER, Michigan Conference, Secretary.

*On Itinerancy.*

NORVAL WILSON, Baltimore Conference, Chairman.

WILLIAM F. WILSON, Erie Conference, Secretary.

May 5, 1856.  
Appeal of Eli Denniston made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

TROY.  
Journal on Slavery.  
Changes in the Discipline and Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial on Boundaries from Chatham.  
Referred.

Memorial on Slavery from Monkton.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN.  
Memorials on Slavery from Jackson, Eaton Rapids, Tompkins, and Spring Port.  
Referred.

Afternoon session.

J. M. Jamison has leave of absence till Thursday morning.

Report of the Book Agents at New-York.  
Read and referred.

Session prolonged.

Documents relating to the California Christian Advocate.  
Referred.

Chairmen and Secretaries of the Standing Committees.

May 5, 1856.

*On Boundaries.*

THOMAS CARLTON, Genesee Conference, Chairman.

WILLIAM H. PEARNE, Wyoming Conference, Secretary.

*On Slavery.*

MINOR RAYMOND, New-England Conference, Chairman.

DANIEL WISE, Providence Conference, Secretary.

*On the Book Concern.*

GEORGE PECK, Wyoming Conference, Chairman.

JOSEPH M. TRIMBLE, Ohio Conference, Secretary.

*On Missions.*

WILLIAM HAMILTON, Baltimore Conference, Chairman.

WILLIAM C. HOYT, N. Y. East Conference, Secretary.

*On Education.*

EDWARD THOMSON, North Ohio Conference, Chairman.

JOSEPH E. KING, Vermont Conference, Secretary.

*On the Tract Cause.*

JAMES FLOY, New-York East Conference, Chairman.

CHARLES N. SMITH, New-Hampshire Conf., Secretary.

*On Sunday Schools.*

SEYMOUR VAN DUSEN, New-York Conference, Chairman.

JOHN M. REID, New-York East Conference, Secretary.

*On Revisals and Unfinished Business.*

JOHN MCCLINTOCK, New-Jersey Conference, Chairman.

WELLINGTON H. COLLINS, Michigan Conf., Secretary.

Adjournment.

On motion, Conference adjourned at twenty minutes past 12 o'clock.

Benediction by Bishop Baker.

## MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Ames in the chair. The usual religious exercises were conducted by Henry W. Reed, of the Iowa Conference.

On motion, the reading of the Journal of the forenoon was postponed till to-morrow morning.

Memorial of  
Publishing  
Committee of  
the Central  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.  
Referred.

W. D. R. Trotter asked permission to refer an unfinished memorial of the Publishing Committee of the *Central Christian Advocate* to the Committee on the Book Concern, when finished, and on motion, permission was granted.

On motion of Davis W. Clark, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Book Agents, ed-  
itors, &c., in-  
vited to seats  
within the bar.

*Resolved*, That such of the Book Agents, editors of General Conference papers, and representatives of the American Bible Society, as are not delegates, be invited to take seats within the bar of the Conference.

The Report of the Agents of the Western Book Concern, with an accompanying exhibit, was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report and Exhibit, see *Appendix M.*]

The Report of the Book Committee at Cincinnati was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix N.*]

John H. Power, as a member of the Book Committee of the Western Book Concern, presented a minority report, which was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix O.*]

Bishop Ames introduced to the Conference Squire Grey Eyes, who was among the first fruits of the Wyandot Mission.

The Report of the Book Committee at New-York was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern; except so much as refers to the Tract cause, which, together with so much of the report of the Western Book Concern as relates to the same subject, was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause. [For Report, see *Appendix P.*]

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—A memorial from the First Church, New-Haven, New-York East Conference, on extending the time of ministerial service, was presented by John Kennaday, with a request that it be read; and a motion was made that it be not read, but the motion did not prevail, and the memorial was read, and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.—A memorial from the Publishing Committee of the *California Christian Advocate*, with accompanying documents, was presented by J. D. Blain, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

On motion of J. D. Blain, so much of the Journal of the California Conference as relates to the *California Christian Advocate* was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern; and so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MAINE CONFERENCE.—A memorial on the Presiding Eldership, from Augusta, was presented by Stephen Allen, and referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; also by the same, a memorial from Buxton, and one from Augusta, and one from Bridgeton and Naples Circuit, on Slavery, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

May 5, 1856.

Report of the Agents of the Western Book Concern.

Read and referred.

Report of the Book Committee of the Western Book Concern.

Read and referred.

Report of a minority of Book Committee of the Western Book Concern.

Read and referred.

Squire Eyes introduced.

Report of the Book Committee at New-York.

Read and referred.

N. YORK EAST.

Memorial from the First Church, New-Haven, on extending the time of ministerial service.

Referred.

CALIFORNIA.

Memorial from the Publishing Committee of the *California Christian Advocate*.

Referred.

Journal relating to California Christian Advocate and to Slavery.

Referred.

MAINE.  
A memorial on the Presiding Eldership from Augusta.

Referred.

Memorials on Slavery from Buxton, Augusta, Bridgeton, and Naples.

Referred.

May 5, 1856.

**VERMONT.**

Memorial from  
Middlesex on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

**BLACK RIVER.**

Memorial from  
Weedsport on  
the Presiding  
Eldership.  
Referred.

Journal on Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorials from  
Watertown relating to  
Stewards and to  
Slavery.  
Referred.

**EAST MAINE.**

Journal on Slavery.  
Referred.

**PITTSBURGH.**

Journal relating  
to a division of  
conference, to  
a German mission  
district,  
and to Slavery,  
is referred.

Memorial from  
Pittsburgh  
Conference on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

**WYOMING.**

Journal relating  
to Slavery.  
Referred.

**ERIE.**

Journal relating  
to Boundaries  
and Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Ravenna District on  
division of Conference.  
Referred.

ONEIDA.  
Journal relating  
to Slavery.  
Referred.  
Memorial from  
Columbus on  
Slavery.

**VERMONT CONFERENCE.**—W. J. Kidder presented a memorial on Slavery from Middlesex Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

**BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.**—A. J. Phelps presented a petition relating to the Presiding Eldership from Weedsport, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. On motion of A. J. Phelps, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the committee on that subject.

F. H. Stanton presented a memorial from the Quarterly Conference of the Arsenal-street Church, Watertown, relating to Stewards, which was referred to the Committee on Revisals. From the same Quarterly Meeting Conference, a memorial on Slavery, and one also from the lay members of Watertown on Slavery, and they were referred to the committee on that subject.

**EAST MAINE CONFERENCE.**—On motion of L. L. Knox, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

**PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE.**—On motion of I. N. Baird, so much of the Journal as relates to the division of the Conference was referred to the Committee on Boundaries; so much as relates to a German mission district was referred to the Committee on Boundaries; and so much as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Samuel Wakefield presented a memorial from the Pittsburgh Conference, relating to a division of the Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

**WYOMING CONFERENCE.**—On motion of William H. Pearne, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

**ERIE CONFERENCE.**—On motion of Hiram Kinsley, so much of the Journal as relates to Boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries; and so much as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

G. B. Hawkins presented a memorial from Ravenna District on a division of the Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

**ONEIDA CONFERENCE.**—On motion of Isaac Parks, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Charles Starr presented a memorial from Columbus on



Slavery, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

May 5, 1856.  
Referred.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—On motion of Jonas Dodge, so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the committee on that subject.

EAST GENESEE.  
Journal relating to Slavery.  
Referred.

Calvin S. Coats presented a memorial from Troy District on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Memorial from Troy District on Boundaries.  
Referred.

A memorial on Lay Representation was presented by F. G. Hibbard, read, and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Memorial on Lay Representation.  
Referred.  
OREGON.  
Journal on publishing a Paper, and on Slavery.  
Referred.

OREGON CONFERENCE.—On motion of William Roberts, so much of the Journal as relates to the publishing of a Paper was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern; and so much as relates to Slavery, was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

OHIO CONFERENCE.—On motion of J. M. Trimble, the resolutions of the Ohio Conference on Slavery were referred to the Committee on Slavery, and so much of the Journal as relates to boundaries was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

OHIO.  
Journal on Slavery and Boundaries.  
Referred.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.—On motion of H. S. Talbot, so much of the Journal as relates to the office of Presiding Elder, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy, and so much of the Journal as relates to Class-meetings was referred to the Committee on Revisals; and, on motion of W. C. Smith, so much of the Journal as remonstrates against extending the term of ministerial service on circuits and stations, was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

INDIANA.  
Journal relating to the Presiding Eldership, and to Class-meetings.  
Referred.  
Journal remonstrating against extending the term of ministerial services.  
Referred.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—On motion of I. M. Leihy, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

WISCONSIN.  
Journal relating to Slavery.  
Referred.

The appeal of Jonathan M. Snow was made the order of the day for next Wednesday week, in the morning.

Appeal of J. M. Snow made the order of the day for next Wednesday week.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—On motion of L. Hitchcock, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ROCK RIVER.  
Journal relating to Slavery.  
Referred.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.—On motion of W. B. Disbro, so much of the Journal as relates to an annual election of Stewards was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

NORTH OHIO.  
Journal relating to the annual election of Stewards.  
Referred.  
Memorial on the subject of baptism.  
Referred.

James Wheeler presented a memorial from J. S. Kalb and others on the subject of Baptism; and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Remonstrances

Henry E. Pilcher presented remonstrances from the Quar-

May 5, 1856.  
on the subject  
of Boundaries,  
from Delaware  
and South Del-  
aware.  
Referred.

CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from  
West Liberty  
on Boundaries.  
Referred.

PITTSBURGH.  
Appeal of I. N.  
McAbee made  
the order of the  
day for next  
Tuesday week.

CINCINNATI.  
Journal relating  
to Finance.  
Referred.

BALTIMORE.  
Memorial from  
colored mem-  
bers of Sharp-  
street and As-  
bury Stations.  
Referred.

Members mov-  
ing a reference  
of any part of  
the Journal of  
an annual con-  
ference, to fur-  
nish a copy to  
the committee.

PHILADELPHIA.  
Memorial of Jo-  
seph Castle on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

NEW-ENGLAND.  
Memorials from  
the several  
charges on Spring-  
field  
District.  
Referred.  
Special commit-  
tees announced.

Committee to  
respond to the  
Address of the  
British Confer-  
ence.

Committee on  
Trials and Ap-  
peals.

Committee on  
Pastoral Ad-  
dress.

terly Conferences of Delaware Station, and South Delaware Circuits, against any change of conference lines, by which those two charges shall be thrown into different conferen-ces; and they were referred to the Committee on Bounda-ries.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—George W. Walker presented a petition from members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of West Liberty, North Ohio Conference, on Boundaries; and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE.—On motion of I. N. Baird, the appeal of I. N. McAbee, was made the order of the day for next Tuesday week, in the morning.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—On motion of William Young, so much of the Journal of the Cincinnati Conference as re-lates to finance was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—John A. Collins presented a memorial from the colored members of Sharp-street and Asbury Stations, Baltimore, asking to be permitted to form a Conference among themselves; and it was referred to the Committee on the Colored Membership of our Church.

On motion, it was made the duty of a member moving the reference of any item of the Journal of his Conference to a committee, to furnish a copy of the item to the chair-man of the said committee.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.—William McCombs pre-sented a communication from Joseph Castle, presiding elder of the North Philadelphia District, Philadelphia Conference, on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—T. Marcy presented me-morials on Slavery from the several charges on Springfield District, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

The following special committees were announced by the chair, namely:

Committee to respond to the Address of the British Con-ference: John P. Durbin, J. M. Trimble, F. G. Hibbard, Stephen Allen, Thomas B. Sargent.

Committee on Trials and Appeals: James Porter, T. J. Thompson, William Reddy, J. M. Jamison, H. W. Reed, S. D. Brown.

Committee on Pastoral Address: Alfred Griffith, E. G. Wood, L. W. Berry, R. S. Rust, I. N. Baird.

Committee on Expenses of Delegates: John S. Porter, William Cox, and I. M. Leihy. May 5, 1856.  
Committee on Expenses of Delegates.  
Committee on Temperance.

Committee on Temperance: Henry Slicer, A. A. Reese, L. Hitchcock, J. B. Merwin, William Rice, William Young, Thomas H. Pearne.

Committee on Temporal Economy: Heman Bangs, Elmore Yocum, T. Carlton, A. Poe, J. Van Cleve, P. T. Kenney, C. D. Pillsbury. Committee on Temporal Economy.

Committee on the Bible Cause: Elias Bowen, Wellington H. Collins, Alonzo Webster, Lorenzo R. Thayer, George R. Crooks, Hooper Crews, and John M. Reid. Committee on the Bible Cause.

Committee on the Smith Arnold Fund: Zebulon Phillips, A. M. Osbon, J. Floy, William A. Wilmer, J. Cunningham, I. N. Felch, John Dennis. Committee on the Smith Arnold Fund.

Committee on the Education of Colored Youth: Cyrus Brooks, Z. Connell, Moses Hill, H. E. Pilcher, M. Dustin, F. C. Holliday, R. Boyd. Committee on the Education of Colored Youth.

Committee on Colored Membership: George F. Brown, L. B. Gurley, T. J. Quigley, S. V. Blake, J. Drummond, E. E. Griswold, George M. Carpenter. Committee on Colored Membership.

Committee on Metropolitan Church: John McClintock, M. Raymond, J. P. Durbin, J. V. Watson, E. Thomson. Committee on the Metropolitan Church.

The following resolution was submitted by Heman Bangs and adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Temporal Economy inquire into the propriety of the widows of deceased bishops being paid their allowance in the same way that the bishops are now paid. Resolution relating to the manner of paying widows and orphans of deceased bishops.

On motion, Conference adjourned at three quarters past five o'clock. Benediction by William L. Harris. Adjournment.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 6th, 1856.

May 6, 1856.

Conference met at eight o'clock, and was opened in the usual order by Robert Boyd, of the Pittsburgh Conference.

Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The Journal of yesterday, both morning and afternoon sessions, was read, amended, and approved.

Brother Lowry moved to suspend the order of the day, to admit a motion for a change of reference of the paper relating to the establishing of the college for colored people; which prevailed, and it was referred to a special committee on that subject.

College for colored youth.  
Reference of a paper changed.

May 6, 1856.  
John Barker  
takes his seat.

John Barker, of Pittsburgh Conference, presented his certificate of election, and took his seat as a member of this General Conference.

Appeal of Eli  
Denniston  
taken up and  
entertained.

The order of the day was taken up, and the appeal of Eli Denniston, an expelled member of the New-York Conference, was, on motion of Z. Phillips, entertained.

Motion to have  
the grounds of  
the appeal  
stated.

A motion was made to have the grounds of the appeal stated. Brother G. W. Walker moved as a substitute that the Journals of the New-York Conference touching the case be read; and the substitute was adopted.

Journal of the  
New-York  
Conference  
read. Charges,  
specifications,  
and testimony  
read.

The Journal of the New-York Conference in the case was then read, setting forth the several actions of the Conference relating thereto. The charges and specifications were read, after which the testimony taken before the New-York Conference was read.

J. H. Perry ap-  
pears for the  
appellant.

J. H. Perry appeared and addressed the Conference in behalf of the appellant.

Afternoon ses-  
sion.

On motion of John A. Collins, it was resolved, that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at three o'clock P. M.

Adjournment.

On motion of B. M. Hall, Conference adjourned at five minutes before twelve o'clock.

Benediction by Dr. Hannah.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious exercises were conducted by George Peck, of the Wyoming Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

J. H. Perry re-  
sumes  
his  
argument.

J. H. Perry resumed his argument on the behalf of the appellant, whose case was before the Conference at the time of adjournment. A. M. Osbon, as the representative of the New-York delegation, defended the action of the Conference, after which J. H. Perry responded, and the pleadings closed.

A. M. Osbon  
responds  
for  
the New-York  
Conference.

J. H. Perry  
closes  
the  
pleadings.

Delegates of the  
New-York  
Conference ex-  
cused from  
voting.

On motion of Heman Bangs, the delegates of the New-York Conference were, at their own request, excused from voting in the final determination of this case.

The following resolution was then submitted by Heman Bangs, and adopted, namely:

Decision of the  
New-York  
Conference re-  
versed.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several annual conferences in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the New-York



Conference, expelling Eli Denniston, be and the same is hereby reversed. May 6, 1856.

On motion, Conference adjourned. Adjournment.  
Benediction by Israel Chamberlayne.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1856. May 7, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by William Cooper, of the Philadelphia Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

The President presented a communication, signed by two of the preachers of the California Conference, relating to one of the delegates in this body from that Conference, and, on motion of J. D. Blain, it was referred to a committee of five. A communication relating to a member of the General Conference. Referred.

The special order of the day for this morning, the appeal of D. J. Snow, an expelled member of the Illinois Conference, was called, when a motion was made by J. P. Durbin to lay the special order of the day on the table for the present; but the motion did not prevail. Appeal of D. J. Snow called. Motion to lay it on the table. Lost.

On motion of S. Van Deusen, the appeal was taken up. Appeal taken up.

A motion was made by F. C. Holliday, to refer this case to a committee of five, to prepare it for Conference action. Motion to refer to a committee.  
J. Z. Nichols moved to lay the motion to refer on the table; and the motion prevailed. Laid on the table.

On motion of Hiram Kinsley, the appeal was admitted; and the appellant then stated the grounds of his appeal. Appeal admitted, and grounds of appeal stated.

The Journal of the Illinois Conference, touching this case, was read; after which James Floy submitted the following preamble and resolution, and they were adopted, namely: Journal of Illinois Conference read.

Inasmuch as the records of the trial in the case of D. J. Snow are imperfect; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the case be referred back to the Illinois Conference for a new trial. Case referred back for a new trial.

Bishop Waugh introduced Rev. Dr. Ryerson and Rev. Richard Jones, representatives of the Wesleyan Conference in Canada. Dr. Ryerson presented the Address of the Canada Conference to this body. The Address was read, after which Dr. Ryerson and Rev. Mr. Jones addressed the Conference in relation to the interests of Methodism in Canada. [For Address of the Canada Conference, see *Appendix D*.] Rev. Dr. Ryerson and Rev. Richard Jones introduced. Address of the Canada Conference presented and read. Delegates from Canada address the Conference.

May 7, 1856.

Resolutions  
greeting the  
Canadian  
brethren, and  
providing for a  
delegation  
from this body.  
Amendment to  
elect three, in-  
stead of one.

C. W. Ruter submitted a series of resolutions, greeting the Canadian brethren, and providing for a delegation from this body to attend the session of the Canada Conference in 1857.

A motion was made by W. H. Brockway, to so amend the resolution providing for a delegation, as to elect three instead of one. H. Bangs moved, as a substitute to this amendment, that two delegates, instead of three, be elected. The substitute was laid on the table, and the amendment was adopted. The resolutions, as amended, were then adopted as follows, namely :

Resolution  
greeting the  
Delegates from  
Canada.

*Resolved*, 1. That we greet most cordially, and with true brotherly affection, Rev. Brethren Ryerson and Jones, representatives of the Canada Conference, and welcome them as brethren beloved from that branch of the great Methodist family.

Address to be  
published.

2. *Resolved*, That the Address of the Canada Conference be published in the several General Conference papers.

Committee to  
reply to the ad-  
dress.

3. *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare a suitable address in behalf of this to the Canada Conference.

Three delegates  
to be elected.

4. *Resolved*, That this Conference, some time during its present session, elect three delegates to attend the session of the Canada Conference in A. D. 1857, as our representatives, and bear our friendly greetings to that body.

Resolution to  
provide for a  
committee to  
nominate can-  
didates for elec-  
tion as dele-  
gates to the  
Canada Confer-  
ence.

B. M. Hall submitted a resolution, providing for a committee of *five* to nominate nine persons to be voted for as delegates to the Canada Conference.

Proposed  
amendment  
laid on the  
table.

M. Dustin moved to amend, by striking out *five*, and inserting "one from each Conference;" but the amendment was laid on the table.

Motion to lay  
the resolution  
on the table.  
Lost.

F. C. Holliday moved to lay the resolution on the table, and the motion was lost.

The original resolution was adopted as follows, namely :

Resolution  
adopted.

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to nominate nine persons to be voted for by the General Conference, as delegates to the Canada Wesleyan Connection, and the three having the highest number of votes to be the delegates.

Courtesies and  
privileges ex-  
tended to the  
delegates from  
Canada.

John Luccock moved that the same courtesies and privileges that were extended to the Wesleyan delegates, be extended also to the delegates of the Canada Conference.

Rev. Brethren  
Scott and Cat-  
ther of the Irish  
Conference in-  
troduced.

Bishop Waugh introduced Rev. Brethren Scott and Cather, deputies from the Irish Conference.

Address of the  
Irish Confer-  
ence presented  
and read.

Mr. Scott presented an Address from the Irish Conference. The Address was read, after which the deputies addressed the Conference. [For Address, see *Appendix F.*]

On motion of John A. Collins, the following resolutions were adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That we extend a most cordial greeting and welcome to our brethren the deputies from the Irish Conference to this body, and also the same courtesies and privileges as were extended to the representatives of the British and Canada Conferences.

*Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed to respond to the Address of the Irish Conference, presented to this body by the delegates thereof; and that said committee also report to this Conference a plan for the furtherance of the object of the Irish delegation to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

On motion of James Porter, the papers before the last General Conference, in relation to an Appeal Conference, were referred to the Committee on Trials and Appeals.

John A. Collins presented the following resolutions, namely:

1. *Resolved*, by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled, That the Committee on Slavery and the Committee on Itinerancy be, and they are hereby instructed, to mature their action on Slavery, the Presiding Elder question, and the proposition to continue preachers on circuits and stations for a longer period than two years, and report the same at as early a period as practicable during its session.

2. *Resolved*, By the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled, That when the report comes in, either on Slavery, the Presiding Elder question, or extension of time of preacher in an appointment, as the case may be, it shall be the special order of the day, immediately after the call for petitions, memorials, appeals, etc., and shall remain so each successive day, as a standing order until disposed of: that is to say, whichever of the above subjects is first reported on to this Conference, shall be under the control of this order, until action is had thereon: and so of the two others, taking precedence as the reports respectively come in: Provided, that nothing in this resolution shall be so understood or construed, as to conflict with the 15th rule for the government of this body.

3. *Resolved*, By the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Conference assembled, That said Committees shall include in their respective reports the number and sex of the signers of the various memorials and petitions presented to the Conference in relation to the subjects referred to.

The first resolution was read and adopted. The second resolution was read, and a motion was made to lay it on the table, but the motion was lost.

A motion was made to extend the time of the session, but the motion did not prevail.

On motion, the second resolution was adopted.

The chair announced the following committee, ordered this morning, in relation to the communication from two preachers of the California Conference, namely:

N. J. B. Morgan, Gardner Baker, Jarvis Z. Nichols, Wellington H. Collins, and William Roberts.

The time of adjournment having come, Conference closed with the benediction by Dr. Ryerson.

May 7, 1856.

Resolution greeting the Irish deputa-  
tion.

Committee ordered to respond to the Address of the Irish Conference, &c.

Documents before the last General Conference on an appeal Conference.  
Referred.

Committees on Slavery and Itinerancy to hasten their reports.

Reports on Slavery, the Presiding Elder question, and on extending the time of ministerial service, to be under a special order, till the final action shall be had.

Committee on the communication relating to members of the California Conference.

Adjournment.

May 8, 1856,

## THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 8, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Morris in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by W. H. Brockway of the Michigan Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

On motion of W. L. Harris, the special order of the day was suspended.

L. B. Gurley  
and J. H. Pow-  
er changed on  
committees.

On motion of W. L. Harris, in pursuance of instruction from the North Ohio Delegation, Leonard B. Gurley was changed from the Committee on the Book Concern to the Committee on Episcopacy; and John H. Power was changed from the Committee on Episcopacy to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Report of the  
Commissioners  
of the Church  
suit against the  
Western Book  
Concern.  
Read and refer-  
red.

Edward Thomson presented and read the report of the Commissioners on the Church suit of the Western Book Concern, and it, with accompanying papers, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix Q.*]

Dr. Hannah re-  
quests that del-  
egates be sent  
to the British  
Conference.

Dr. Hannah expressed to the Conference the earnest desire of the British Conference to receive a delegation from this body, at their session, either next year, or at the earliest convenient period thereafter.

Statement of  
agents relating  
to book deposi-  
tory at St.  
Louis.

On motion of Adam Poe, a Statement of the agents of Western Book Concern, concerning a book depository and a paper at St. Louis, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Statement, see *Appendix R.*]

Motion to take  
up the resolu-  
tion laid on the  
table by ad-  
journment,  
lost.

John A. Collins moved to take up the resolution under consideration at the time of adjournment; but the motion was laid on the table by a vote of 104 to 56.

Communication  
from Liberia  
Annual Confer-  
ence.

Bishop Waugh presented a communication from the Liberia Annual Conference, and on motion of Isaac Parks, it was referred to the Committee on Missions, without reading.

NEW-YORK  
EAST.

Communication  
relating to the  
support of min-  
isters whose  
health fall in  
foreign fields.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—E. E. Griswold presented a communication from the New-York East Conference, in relation to the support of ministers who shall lose their health in foreign fields of labor, &c., and it was referred to the Committee on Missions: also a communication from the New-York East Conference, in relation to Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

N. J. B. Morgan, chairman of the committee to whom was referred the communication from two of the preachers



of the California Conference, in relation to a member of this body, reported as follows, and the report was adopted :

The committee to whom was referred the communication from California, respecting S. D. Simonds, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to present the following as our report.

The communication refers to affairs in which Brother Simonds appears to have acted with the knowledge and advice of his presiding elder, and other ministerial brethren, and over which it is our opinion this General Conference has no jurisdiction.

May 8, 1856.

Report of committee relating to the letter from California.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. J. B. MORGAN,  
G. BAKER,  
J. Z. NICHOLS,

W. H. COLLINS,  
WILLIAM ROBERTS.

On motion of George W. Walker, the special order of the day, the appeal of L. D. Harlan, was taken up.

Appeal of L. D. Harlan taken up.

On motion of John H. Power, Conference determined to sit with closed doors during the investigation of this case, excepting, however, from the force of this requirement, traveling ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Conference to sit with closed doors.

Brothers Noble and Johnson were appointed doorkeepers.

Doorkeepers.

On motion of George W. Walker, Moses Brooks, Esq., the father of the late Mrs. Sears, whose character is implicated in this case, was permitted to be present during the trial of the appeal.

Moses Brooks permitted to be present during the trial of the appeal.

Bishop Morris stated an order of proceedings in cases of appeal, agreed upon by the bishops, and after it was read by Bishop Baker, it was adopted by the Conference as the order to be observed in all cases of appeal to this body.

Order of conducting appeals.

The order is as follows, namely :

1. Motion to take up.
2. Motion to admit.
3. Appellant state the grounds of his appeal.
4. Read the charges, specifications, and findings of the case.
5. Reading of the testimony.
6. Defense of the appellant.
7. Reply of the delegates.
8. Final reply of the appellant.
9. Decision by the General Conference.

On motion of James Porter, the appeal was admitted.

Appeal admitted.

The appellant then stated the grounds of his appeal.

Grounds of appeal stated.

The charges, specifications, and finding of the Conference, together with a notice of appeal, were read from the Journal of the Cincinnati Conference.

Charges, specifications, and finding read.

The testimony in behalf of the prosecution was read, and the testimony of the defense was read in part, when, on motion, Conference adjourned to meet at half past two o'clock this afternoon.

Testimony for the prosecution read.

Testimony for the defense read in part.

Afternoon session.

May 8, 1856.  
British dele-  
gates to preach  
on Wednesday  
afternoon.  
Dr. Hannah at  
8 o'clock.

Rev. Mr. Job-  
son at seven  
o'clock.

Bishop Waugh announced that, in pursuance of a resolution of this body, the representatives of the Wesleyan Connection in Great Britain, on consultation with the bishops, had designated Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock, as the time for a sermon from Dr. Hannah before the Conference, and Wednesday evening at half past seven o'clock, as the hour when Rev. Mr. Jobson would preach before the Conference. The services on both these occasions to be in Wesley Chapel.

Adjournment.

Conference closed with singing the doxology, and the benediction by Israel Chamberlayne.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Janes in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Elias Bowen of the Oneida Conference. The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Appeal of L. D.  
Harlan resum-  
ed.  
Testimony read  
till adjourn-  
ment.

On motion of George W. Walker, the case under consideration at the time of adjournment this morning was taken up, and the reading of testimony continued till it was arrested by the adjournment of Conference.

Special Com-  
mittees an-  
nounced.

Bishop Baker announced the following committees, namely:

Committee to  
prepare a reply  
to the Address  
of the Canada  
Conference.

Committee to prepare a reply to the Address of the Canada Conference: Calvin Kingsley, H. Mattison, E. H. Pilcher, D. Wise, and George Rutledge.

Committee to  
answer the Ad-  
dress of the  
Irish Confer-  
ence.

Committee to answer the Address of the Irish Conference, and to devise means to carry out the object of their mission: E. Thomson, J. M'Clintock, L. Crowell, F. Hodgson, H. Crews, G. Battelle, and L. H. King.

Committee to  
nominate can-  
didates to visit  
the Canada  
Conference.

Committee to nominate candidates to visit the Canada Conference: B. M. Hall, C. W. Ruter, W. F. Farrington, H. Summers, and J. Lewis.

Adjournment.

Conference closed with singing the Doxology, and with the benediction by George Peck.

May 9, 1856.

#### FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 9, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Scott in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by John S. Porter of the New-Jersey Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

On motion of W. L. Harris, the unfinished business of yesterday was taken up, and the reading of testimony in the matter of L. D. Harlan was completed.

Thomas H. Pearne said that he had been requested to report the arguments of the parties in this case, and he desired to know the will of the Conference in relation to reporting.

Whereupon, M. Raymond moved that he be left to his own discretion; but the motion was laid on the table.

The appellant, L. D. Harlan, addressed the Conference till near the hour of adjournment, when, on motion of John A. Collins, the case was laid on the table for the present.

On motion, the session was prolonged till the Conferences can be called for the presentation of memorials and petitions.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.—James Thurston presented four memorials on Slavery, to wit: one from South New Market; one from Garretts-street Station; one from Greenland Station; one from Dover; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Newel Culver presented a memorial on Slavery from Unity Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

TROY CONFERENCE.—A. Witherspoon presented a memorial on Slavery from Union Village, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

S. D. Brown presented a memorial relating to Law Questions, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

NEW YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—J. B. Merwin presented a letter from Rev. L. Clark, in relation to a Court of Trials and Appeals, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.—On motion of J. D. Blain, so much of the Journal of the California Conference as relates to Missions was referred to the Committee on Missions.

MAINE CONFERENCE.—D. B. Randall presented five memorials on Slavery; one from Industry Circuit; one from Wilton and Temple Circuit; one from Skowhegan; one from Solon, and one from Mercer, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a remonstrance from Fayette Circuit, against any change in the system of Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

May 9, 1856.

Appeal of L. D. Harlan resumed, and the reading of the testimony completed.

T. H. Pearne having been requested to report this case, wishes to know the pleasure of the Conference.

Motion to leave the matter to his discretion. Laid on the table.

Appellant addressed the Conference.

Case laid on the table for the present.

Session prolonged.

Memorials and petitions presented.

N. HAMPSHIRE. Memorials on Slavery from South New Market, Garretts-street, Greenland, and Dover.

Referred.

Memorial on Slavery from Unity. Referred.

TROY.

Memorial on Slavery from Union Village.

Referred.

Memorial on Law Questions. Referred.

N. YORK EAST. Letter from Rev.

L. Clark relating to a Court of Trials and Appeals.

Referred.

CALIFORNIA. Journal relating to Missions.

Referred.

MAINE.

Memorials on Slavery from Industry, Wilton, and Temple, Skowhegan, Solon, and Mercer.

Referred.

Remonstrance against any change in the system of the Presiding Eldership, from Fayette. Referred.

May 9, 1856.

## VERMONT.

Memorials on  
Slavery from  
Corinth and  
Pittsfield.  
Referred.  
Memorial on  
Boundaries re-  
ferred.  
Journal relating  
to Boundaries.  
Referred.  
Journal relating  
to Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorials on  
Slavery from  
Derby and  
Lyndon.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Bethel.  
Referred.

Memorial for re-  
lief—lost Tract  
money.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER.  
Memorials on  
Slavery from  
Champion; and  
on the Presid-  
ing Eldership  
from Marcy.  
Referred.

Memorials on  
the Presiding  
Eldership from  
Rome, Geddis,  
and East Os-  
wego.  
Referred.

Memorials on  
the Presiding  
Eldership from  
York-street,  
Fleet-street,  
Pacific-street,  
and Centenary  
Church, Brook-  
lyn; from Bed-  
ford-street,  
Duane-street,  
and Trinity  
Church, New-  
York.  
Referred.

WESTERN VIR-  
GINIA.

Memorial from  
Wheeling on  
Church Insur-  
ance.  
Referred.

EAST MAINE.  
Memorial on  
Extension of  
Time of Minis-

VERMONT CONFERENCE.—Alonzo Webster presented two memorials on Slavery; one from Corinth, and one from Pittsfield, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial from Vermont Conference on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. Also, on motion of A. Webster, so much of the Journal of the Vermont Conference as relates to the subject of Boundaries, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries, and so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Slavery, was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

A. G. Button presented two memorials on Slavery; one from Derby, and one from Lyndon, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Joseph E. King presented a memorial on Slavery from Bethel Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Also a memorial from W. J. Kidder for relief, he having lost Tract money on his way hither, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—Gardner Baker presented two memorials from Champion on the subject of Slavery, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from Marcy Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

J. Erwin presented a memorial from East Oswego, one from Rome, and one from Geddis, on the Presiding Eldership, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

H. Mattison presented memorials on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, one from York-street, Brooklyn, one from Fleet-street, Brooklyn, one from Pacific-street, Brooklyn, and one from Centenary Church, Brooklyn, all in New-York East Conference; also one from Bedford-street, New-York, one from Duane-street, New-York, and one on both the Presiding Eldership and on extending the Time of Ministerial Service on Circuits and Stations, from Trinity Church, New-York, all in New-York Conference, and they were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—James Drummond presented a memorial from Wheeling on the subject of Church Insurance, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

EAST MAINE CONFERENCE.—George Pratt presented a memorial on Extension of Time of Ministerial Service from



Newcastle, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. He also presented three memorials on the subject of Slavery, one from Rockland, one from Newcastle, and one from Southport, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ERIE CONFERENCE.—G. B. Hawkins presented a memorial from Akron on the Extension of Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

ONEIDA CONFERENCE.—E. Bowen presented a memorial from Dryden on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

D. W. Bristol presented a memorial from Lenox on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—John Dennis presented a memorial from Rochester District on Boundaries, which was referred to the Committee on Boundaries; also one from Rochester District Ministerial Association on Extending the Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; also one from Rochester District Ministerial Association on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—On motion of L. Chamberlayne, so much of the Journal as relates to Church Insurance was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy; and so much as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—J. K. Gillet presented two memorials on Slavery from Oakville, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

W. H. Collins presented a memorial on Slavery, from South Albion, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

David Burns presented a memorial on Slavery from Kalamazoo Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE.—S. C. Cooper presented a memorial on Slavery from Orland Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.—B. F. Cray presented a petition from E. Whitten, in relation to his indebtedness to the Book Concern, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—P. S. Bennett presented a

May 9, 1856.

terial Service from Newcastle.

Referred.

Memorials on Slavery from Rockland, Newcastle, and Southport.

Referred.

ERIE.

Memorial from Akron on Extension of Time of Ministerial Service.

Referred.

ONEIDA.

Memorials on Slavery from Dryden and Lenox.

Referred.

EAST GENESEE.

Memorial from Rochester District on Boundaries.

Referred.

Memorials from Rochester District Ministerial Association on Extending the Time of Ministerial Service, and on Slavery.

Referred.

GENESEE.

Journal relating to Church Insurance and Slavery.

Referred.

MICHIGAN.

Memorials on Slavery from Oakville.

Referred.

Memorial on

Slavery from South Albion.

Referred.

Memorial on

Slavery from Kalamazoo.

Referred.

NORTH INDIANA.

Memorial on Slavery from Orland.

Referred.

INDIANA.

Memorial from E. Whitten relating to indebtedness to the Book Con-

cern.

Referred.

WISCONSIN.

May 9, 1856.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
West Bend.

Referred.  
Journal relating to the Presiding Eldership and to Ministerial Support.

Referred.  
NORTH OHIO.  
Memorial from South Delaware on Boundaries.

Referred.  
Journal relating to People of Color.

Referred.  
Memorial from Jeromeville on the Ritual of Baptism.

Referred.  
Petitions from W. C. Peirce and J. F. Kennedy on Boundaries.

Referred.

CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from Greenville on Boundaries.

Referred.

Memorial from W. Herr on Sunday-school Superintendents.

Referred.

Memorial from W. Herr on Table Expenses, &c.

Referred.

Memorial relating to a note on page 210 of the Discipline.

Referred.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA.

Memorial relating to Conrad Muth.

Referred.

Memorial on Sunday-school Superintendents.

Referred.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

Memorial relating to Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis, and the Journal on the same subject.

Referred.

KENTUCKY.

memorial from West Bend on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of Henry Requa, so much of the Journal as relates to the Presiding Eldership was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; and so much as relates to Ministerial Support was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.—W. L. Harris presented a memorial from South Delaware on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

On motion of Adam Poe, so much of the Journal as relates to People of Color, was referred to the committee on that subject. He also presented a memorial from Jeromeville Circuit, on the Ritual on Baptism, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals; also a petition on Boundaries from W. C. Peirce, Presiding Elder of Sandusky District, and J. F. Kennedy, pastor of the Church in Mansfield, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—J. B. Finley presented a memorial from Greenville, North Ohio Conference, on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

George W. Walker presented a memorial from W. Herr on the subject of Sunday-school Superintendents, and it was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools; also, a memorial from W. Herr on Table Expenses, &c., and it was referred to Committee on Temporal Economy.

William Young presented a memorial from Cincinnati relating to a note on page 210 of the Cincinnati edition of the Discipline, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.—Enoch G. Wood presented a memorial from J. Kisling, in relation to the case of Conrad Muth, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions; also, a memorial from Indianapolis District Sunday-School Association on Sunday-school Superintendents, and it was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—J. Van Cleve presented a memorial on the subject of a Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis, and it, together with so much of the Journal of the Conference as relates to the same subject, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

KENTUCKY CONFERENCE.—On motion of A. H. Triplett, so much of the Journal of the Kentucky Conference as re-

lates to the Perpetuity of the Conference, was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—John H. Hopkins presented a memorial from Hannibal on Book Depository at St. Louis; also one from A. J. Gaither and others, asking the establishment of a Paper at St. Louis, and they were referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE.—On motion of M. Robertson, so much of the Journal as relates to the subject of Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—William Hamilton presented a memorial from Baltimore city, and one from Summerfield Circuit, on Boundaries, and they were referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

John A. Collins presented a remonstrance from Frederic City Station, against the line of division of the Baltimore Conference, indicated by its action at its last session, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

On motion of John A. Collins, so much of the Journal as relates to the Wisconsin and North Ohio resolutions on Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—William Rice presented two memorials on Slavery from Park-street Station, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE.—On motion of S. W. Coggeshall, so much of the Journal as relates to the Suppression of Anti-slavery Tracts was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

P. T. Kenney presented a memorial on Slavery from Holmes's Hole, and one from North Manchester, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE.—On motion of G. F. Brown, so much of the Journal as relates to Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MAINE CONFERENCE.—D. B. Randall presented a memorial from Fairfield, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of J. M'Clintock, the papers presented by the Committee on Revisals in 1852 were referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Conference adjourned, with benediction by John P. Durbin.

May 9, 1856.

Journal relating to the Perpetuity of the Conference.

MISSOURI. Memorial from Hannibal on Book Depository at St. Louis.

Referred. Memorial on a Paper at St. Louis.

Referred. ARKANSAS. Journal relating to Slavery.

Referred. BALTIMORE. Memorials from Summerfield and Baltimore city, on Boundaries.

Referred. Remonstrance from Frederic City against the line of division.

Referred. Journal on Slavery.

NEW-ENGLAND. Memorials on Slavery from Park-street.

Referred. PROVIDENCE. Journal relating to the Suppression of Anti-slavery Tracts.

Referred. Memorial on Slavery from Holmes's Hole, and North Manchester.

Referred. NEW JERSEY. Journal on Slavery.

MAINE. Memorial on Slavery from Fairfield.

Referred. Papers presented by Committee on Revisals in 1852.

Referred. Adjournment.

May 9, 1856.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by William Reddy, of the Oneida Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Memorial of David Cassidy in relation to Books Burned. Referred.

H. Crews presented a memorial from David Cassidy, of the Rock River Conference, in relation to Books Burned, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Memorial on Slavery from Eagle Harbor. Referred.

Isaac C. Kingsley presented two memorials, one on Slavery, from Eagle Harbor, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery; and one on a Church Insurance Company, from Niagara District Preachers' Association, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

Memorial on Church Insurance, from Niagara District Preachers' Association. Referred.

On motion of W. L. Harris, the case of L. D. Harlan was taken up, and he finished his plea before the Conference.

Appeal of L. D. Harlan resumed, and plea of appellant finished.

George W. Walker, who had been designated by the Cincinnati delegation to defend the action of that Conference, submitted the matter to the Conference without further argument, and the pleadings closed.

The case submitted by G. W. Walker. Pleadings closed. Delegates of the Cincinnati Conference excused from voting.

On motion of M. Dustin, the delegates of the Cincinnati Conference were, at their own request, excused from voting; as was also James M. Jamison, for the reason that necessary absence had prevented him from hearing all the testimony.

Charges and action of Conference read.

The charges and action of the Cincinnati Conference in the case were read, whereupon Jacob Young submitted the following resolution; and it was adopted by the Conference, 139 voting for it, and 6 against it. The resolution is in the words following, to wit:

Decision of Cincinnati Conference affirmed.

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the Cincinnati Annual Conference, of said Church, in the case of L. D. Harlan, be, and the same is hereby affirmed.

Appeal of Nehemiah Stokeley taken up.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the appeal of Nehemiah Stokeley, an expelled member of the New-Jersey Conference, was taken up.

Appeal admitted.

Grounds of appeal stated.

On motion of Pennell Coombe, the appeal was admitted. P. Coombe then, as the representative of the appellant, stated the grounds of the appeal.

Journal of New-Jersey Conference read.

The Journal of the New-Jersey Conference in the case, setting forth the charges and specifications, together with the findings of the Conference, was read.



The testimony was then read; after which the counsel for the defense proposed to submit the case without argument. This S. Y. Monroe, who represented the New-Jersey Conference in the case, did not feel at liberty to do, without first consulting his co-delegates: whereupon Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Heman Bangs.

May 9, 1856.  
Testimony read.

S. Y. Monroe declines to submit the case without argument.  
Adjournment.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 10, 1856.

May 10, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Baker in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by S. W. Coggeshall, of the Providence Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

By consent of Conference, Minor Raymond was, at his own request, excused from serving on the Committee on the Tract Cause, and William Rice was appointed in his stead.

On motion of John S. Porter, the unfinished business of yesterday was taken up, and P. Coombe, representative of the defendant, addressed the Conference on behalf of the defense.

S. Y. Monroe then defended the action of the New-Jersey Conference, after which Pennell Coombe responded, and the pleadings closed.

The Journal of the New-Jersey Conference, setting forth the charges and the action of the Conference in the case, was read.

On motion of John S. Swaim, the delegates of the New-Jersey Conference were, at their own request, excused from voting.

S. W. Coggeshall offered a resolution, which was adopted by a vote of 124 to 27, in words following, to wit:

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled, That the decision of the New-Jersey Annual Conference, expelling Nehemiah Stokeley from the Methodist Episcopal Church, be and the same is hereby reversed.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the regular order of the day was taken up, and reports of committees were called for; when Heman Bangs, Chairman of the Committee on Temporal Economy, reported as follows, namely:

The Committee on Temporal Economy having considered the subject before them, beg leave to present the following resolution:

M. Raymond excused from Committee on the Tract Cause, and W. Rice appointed in his stead.

Appeal of N. Stokeley resumed.

P. Coombe addresses the Conference for the appellant.

S. Y. Monroe defends the action of the Conference.

P. Coombe responds.

Pleadings closed. Journal of New Jersey Conference read.

New-Jersey delegates excused from voting.

Decision of the New-Jersey Conference reversed.

Reports of Committees in order. Committee on Temporal Economy reports.

Report on the allowance of effective traveling preachers.

May 10, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the Discipline on the allowance of effective traveling preachers be so amended, as to leave the entire amount of their allowance to the Estimating Committee and Quarterly Conference of the circuits and stations to which they may be appointed.

H. BANGS, *Chairman*.

Lies on the table under the rule.

This report lies on the table one day under the rule of Conference.

Committee on Missions report in relation to Episcopal authority in Africa.

William Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, reported in part as follows, namely :

The Missionary Committee beg leave to report in part, namely : the following resolutions in reference to so much of the Bishops' Address as refers to the subject of Episcopal authority in our Liberia Mission Conference in Africa.

1. *Resolved*, That we recommend the appointment of a Missionary Bishop, who shall reside in Liberia, on the western coast of Africa, or in its vicinity, and have episcopal jurisdiction in Africa only. The said Bishop and Churches in Africa shall still be under the supervision of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

2. *Resolved*, That in case a suitable man cannot be found during the present session of the General Conference, who is willing to go to Liberia and reside, we recommend and authorize the Liberia Annual Conference, under the direction of the Bishop having charge of said Conference at present, assisted by the Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, to elect an elder in good standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and present him for episcopal ordination to the Bishops, or any of them, who are hereby authorized to ordain such person so elected, certifying in the parchment of ordination that his episcopal jurisdiction is expressly limited to Africa.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 6, 1856.

W. HAMILTON, *Chairman*.

Missionary Seminary.

The Missionary Committee beg leave to report further, in reference to so much of the Bishops' Address as refers to a Missionary Seminary, that they have carefully considered this very weighty matter, and deem its accomplishment of great importance to the future progress of our missions, particularly in foreign lands. But we are of opinion that it is not practicable for this General Conference to devise a plan in detail, and we therefore recommend that the subject be referred to the discretion of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in conjunction with the Bishops, or a majority of them, with an expression of our approbation of the subject-matter suggested in the Address of the Bishops, as already mentioned above. Provided they should be able to do so without making use of our regular Missionary Collections to accomplish the object.

W. HAMILTON, *Chairman*.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 7, 1856.

Laid on the table to be printed.

These reports were, on motion of John A. Collins, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Z. Connell added to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

On motion of A. Lowry, the order of the day was suspended, in order to add Zechariah Connell to the Committee on Temporal Economy ; and he was, on motion of A. Lowry, appointed accordingly.

William Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented a revised Constitution of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as recommended by the Board at New-York, and it was agreed to strike out that provision of the Second Article, by which persons paying two dollars annually become members of the Missionary Society.

On motion of John A. Collins, this report, in part, from the Committee on Missions, was laid on the table to be printed.

John M'Clintock, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business, reported, in part, as follows, namely:

The Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business beg leave to report, in part:

1. That having duly considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the Representation of the General Conference, the Committee recommend the insertion of the words "twenty-seven," in place of "twenty-one," in Part i, ch. iii, § 2, Ans. 1, of the Book of Discipline.

The Committee also recommend the alteration of the second *Restrictive Rule*, (on p. 33,) so as to insert "one for every forty-five," in place of "one for every thirty."

2. The Committee having duly considered the Memorial of the New-England Conference referred to them in respect to Part I, ch. v, § 4, (p. 81,) of the Discipline, entitled, "*Of the Band Societies*," recommend that the said section iv (p. 81) be struck out, and also that the word "band," or "bands," and all allusions thereto be struck out from every other part of the Discipline.

3. The committee having duly considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the call of an extra session of the General Conference, recommend the insertion of the following, Part I, ch. iii, sec. ii, Ans. 2, in place of our present provision for calling an extra session of the General Conference: "But the general superintendents, or a majority of them, with the advice of two thirds of all the Annual Conferences; or, if there be no general superintendent, two thirds of all the Annual Conferences, shall have power to call an extra session of the General Conference, to be constituted in the usual way."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN M'CLINTOCK, *Chairman*.

This report lies on the table under the rule.

John M'Clintock, Chairman of the Select Committee on the Metropolitan Church, submitted a report as follows, namely:

The committee to whom was referred a memorial from the trustees of the proposed Metropolitan Church beg leave to report, That in the opinion of the committee, the enterprise was undertaken for a worthy object and in good faith; that it was proposed to erect a large and attractive "denominational Church edifice" in the metropolis of our nation, which should be regarded as a connectional monument to our beloved Methodism, expressive of our gratitude to God for the honor he has vouchsafed to confer on us in making us the instruments of spreading Scriptural holiness

May 10, 1856.

Committee on Missions report a revised Constitution of the Missionary Society.

Second Article so changed as to strike out the provision by which persons become members by the payment of two dollars annually.

Report laid on the table to be printed.

Report of Committee on Revisals.

Change of the ratio of Representation recommended.

Alteration of Restrictive Rule relating to the limit of the ratio of Representation recommended.

"Band Societies" and "Bands" to be struck out.

Change recommended in the mode of calling an extra session of the General Conference.

Report lies on the table under the rule.

Report relating to the Metropolitan Church.

May 10, 1856.

so extensively through these lands; that the enterprise received the approbation and sanction of the General Conference of 1852, and that nearly all the Annual Conferences in the connection have pledged assistance for its accomplishment. The committee find that, on application of the trustees, the Baltimore Annual Conference appointed the Rev. Henry Slicer agent to solicit funds in its behalf; that he served in this office two years; and that on a second application to the same conference, the Rev. W. M. D. Ryan was appointed to the same agency; that he has served one year, and is still employed as the agent of the trustees. The result of these agencies up to this date is as follows:

Amount collected in cash.....	\$13,600
Amount now due on subscription.....	23,400
Making in all.....	<u>\$37,000</u>

Of the funds collected, \$8,000 have been expended in the purchase of a lot, and the remaining \$5,600 have been expended in laying the foundation.

In this state of things, your committee are of opinion that the honor of the Church is pledged to the accomplishment of this enterprise; and so pledged, that its failure would subject the Church to merited reproach. They further agree, that to complete the edifice in such a style of architecture, of such dimensions, and of such materials as the case demands, will require, in addition to the resources now in the hands of the trustees, at least \$40,000.

The committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That this General Conference recommend that a collection be taken for the purpose of raising the sum of \$40,000, in behalf of the Metropolitan Church, in all the congregations of our connection, between this and the first of July, 1857.

2. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and they are hereby requested, in all the Conferences in which they preside severally, to take the special supervision of this enterprise, urging the collections contemplated, and engaging the preachers to take a practical and efficient interest in the completion of the object proposed.

3. *Resolved*, That in view of the connectional character of the Metropolitan Church, it is the judgment of this General Conference, that the Bishops, in making appointments, should by transfer supply said church with pastors successively from all parts of our work.

The committee further suggest the inquiry, whether this matter may not be referred to in the Pastoral Address to be issued by this body at its present session.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. MCCLINTOCK,  
M. RAYMOND,  
J. P. DURBIN,  
J. V. WATSON,  
E. THOMSON.

Report laid on the table to be printed.

Communication from A. Leggett, Esq., relating to a bequest by Noble Melvin, presented and referred.

On motion of Z. Phillips, this report was laid on the table to be printed.

Leroy Swormstedt, Agent of the Western Book Concern, presented a communication from A. Leggett, Esq., in relation to a bequest of \$750, by Noble Melvin, to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be applied



to the circulating of the Holy Scriptures. The communication having been read, on motion of J. Lewis, it was referred to a special committee of five.

May 10, 1856.

On motion of John M'Clintock, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire whether any, and what verbal alterations or change of arrangement in the Book of Discipline be necessary; and to report to the Conference.

Resolution concerning verbal changes in the Discipline.

The list of conferences was called for the presentation of petitions and memorials, and the following were presented and referred, namely: from

Call for petitions and memorials.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.—L. H. King presented a memorial from a majority of the official members of Duane-street Church, New-York, remonstrating against a change of the Discipline relating to the Presiding Eldership; and one from James B. Oakley, requesting that his name be withdrawn from the memorial sent to General Conference from the Duane-street Church, on the subject of a change in the system of Presiding Eldership, and after the first memorial was read, they were both referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

NEW-YORK.  
Remonstrance from Duane-street on the Presiding Eldership.  
Referred.  
Memorial from James B. Oakley on the Presiding Eldership.  
Referred.

M. D'C. Crawford presented a memorial from Eighteenth-street Church, New-York, on the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Memorial from Eighteenth-street, on the Presiding Eldership.  
Referred.

TROY CONFERENCE.—S. D. Brown presented a memorial from the Preachers' Meeting of Albany, asking that the Discipline be so amended that the allowance to preachers be made by the Quarterly Conference in one sum under the head of Salary, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

TROY.  
Memorial from the preachers' Meeting of Albany, relating to the allowance made to preachers by way of Salary.  
Referred.

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—Heman Bangs presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conference of John-street Church, New-York, on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NEW-YORK EAST.  
Memorial from John-street Church on Boundaries.  
Referred.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.—On motion of J. D. Blain, the memorial presented to the General Conference of 1852, from Isaac Owen and others, preachers in California, in relation to the establishing of a Paper and Book Depository in California, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

CALIFORNIA.  
Memorial from preachers presented in 1852.  
Referred.

MAINE CONFERENCE.—On motion of D. B. Randall, so much of the Journal as relates to a change of the General Rule on Slavery was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MAINE.  
Journal on Slavery.  
Referred.

May 10, 1856.  
BLACK RIVER.  
Letter from J.  
W. Oliver.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Syracuse.  
Referred.

WESTERN VIR-  
GINIA.  
Journal on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

PITTSBURGH.  
Memorial from  
Pittsburgh re-  
lating to Sun-  
day-school Ad-  
vocate.  
Referred.

ERIE.  
Motion to re-  
fer matters re-  
lating to the  
religious in-  
struction of  
children.  
Lost.

Memorial from  
J. Howe.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Jonesville.  
Referred.

Session prolong-  
ed.

ROCK RIVER.  
Memorial relat-  
ing to the  
course of  
Church period-  
icals, and re-  
sponsibility of  
editors.  
Referred.  
IOWA.  
Memorial from  
Mt. Pleasant,  
asking the re-  
turn of J. V.  
Watson as ed-  
itor.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER.—H. Mattison presented a letter which he had received from J. W. Oliver, in relation to the memorial from Duane-street, presented by him yesterday, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

A. J. Phelps presented a memorial on Slavery from official members of the Methodist Episcopal Church on Syracuse District, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.—On motion of James Drummond, so much of the Journal of the Western Virginia Conference as relates to the Erie, Troy, Wisconsin, and North Ohio resolutions on Slavery, was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE.—I. N. Baird presented a memorial from Pittsburgh, asking a Sunday-school Advocate much cheaper than the present one, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

ERIE CONFERENCE.—S. Gregg moved that so much of the Bishops' Address as relates to the religious instruction of children, together with all papers pertaining to that subject, which have hitherto been referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools, be withdrawn from that committee and referred to the Committee on Revisals; but the motion did not prevail. S. Gregg then moved that the papers of the character described in the former motion, now in the hands of the Committee on Revisals, be referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools. This motion was laid on the table. Moses Hill presented a memorial from J. Howe in relation to lost money, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—J. K. Gillet presented a memorial on Slavery from Jonesville, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of John A. Collins, Conference agreed to prolong the session to finish the call for memorials and petitions.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—Bishop Morris presented a memorial from John Chandler and others, in relation to the course of our Church periodicals, and the responsibility of their editors; and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

IOWA CONFERENCE.—L. W. Berry presented a memorial from Mt. Pleasant Station, asking the return of J. V. Watson as editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—George Rutledge presented a memorial from D. J. Snow in relation to his claim upon the funds of the Illinois Conference during the period of his illegal suspension and his illegal expulsion, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

May 10, 1856.  
ILLINOIS.  
Memorial of D.  
J. Snow.  
Referred.

H. Buck presented a memorial from Hudson Circuit, Rock River Conference, on the subject of Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Memorial from  
Hudson Circuit on Boundaries.  
Referred.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—William Hamilton presented a memorial from Baltimore City Station on the subject of Boundaries. After a motion to have the memorial read was lost, it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

BALTIMORE.  
Memorial from  
Baltimore City  
Station on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

John A. Collins presented a memorial from Westminster Circuit, asking that, in the division of the Conference, the Westminster Circuit may be placed in the Baltimore Conference; also one from Cumberland Station, remonstrating against the division of Baltimore Conference by the line indicated at its late session; also one from Alleghany Circuit, praying that the line of division may be so run as to include said circuit in the Baltimore Conference, and they were referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Memorial from  
Westminster  
Circuit on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Cumberland  
Station on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Alleghany Circuit on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Henry Slicer presented two memorials: one from Exeter-street Station, and the other from Jefferson-street Station, Baltimore, both praying that the Conference may be divided by the line indicated at its late session, and they were referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Memorials on  
Boundaries  
from Exeter-  
street and Jeffer-  
son-street  
Stations.  
Referred.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.—T. J. Thompson presented a memorial from Joseph Cook on the subject of the arrangements for traveling circuits, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

PHILADELPHIA.  
Memorial from  
Joseph Cook  
on arrange-  
ments for  
traveling cir-  
cuits.  
Referred.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—D. D. Buck presented a memorial on Slavery from Wayne Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

EAST GENESEE.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Wayne Circuit.  
Referred.

Conference closed with the benediction by Peter Cartwright.

Adjournment.

## MONDAY MORNING, MAY 12, 1856.

May 12, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Ames in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by I. N. Baird, of the Pittsburgh Conference.

The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

The chair announced the following committee ordered on Saturday, on the bequest of Noble Melvin, namely: Thomas

Committee on  
the bequest of  
Noble Melvin.

May 12, 1856.

Carlton, Joseph M. Trimble, Adam Poe, F. C. Holliday, and John Barker.

Report of the Committee on the Book Concern on the memorial of E. Whitten.

The order of the day, namely, reports from committees, was taken up, and George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, reported in part, recommending that the matter set forth in the memorial of Elijah Whitten, asking to be released from a debt to the Western Book Concern, contracted for the Union Tract Society, while he was acting as agent for the Tract Society of the Conferences in the State of Indiana, be referred to the Agents of the Book Concern at Cincinnati, to be settled at their discretion; and the recommendation was on motion adopted.

Case referred to the Agents of the Western Book Concern, to be settled at their discretion.

Conferences were called for the presentation of memorials and petitions, and the following were presented.

Call of conferences for memorials and petitions.

NEW-YORK.

Journal relating to supplying stations in one Conference

with superannuated preachers from another Conference.

Referred.

INDIANA.

Memorial from B. F. Crary and others, relating to superannuated preachers residing out of their own Conference.

Referred.

Address from the French Methodist Conference.

Referred.

A Reply to be reported.

Preamble and resolution providing for a delegation to the British Wesleyan Conference.

Adopted.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.—On motion of L. H. King, so much of the Journal of the New-York Conference as relates to supplying stations in one Conference with superannuated preachers of another Conference, was referred to the Committee on Episcopacy.

INDIANA CONFERENCE.—B. F. Crary presented a memorial from himself and others, in relation to Superannuated Preachers residing out of the bounds of their own Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

J. P. Durbin presented an Address from the French Methodist Conference in France and Switzerland, which was read and referred to the Committee on Missions, with instructions to report a Reply to the French Conference. [For Address, see *Appendix H.*]

The following preamble and resolution, presented by H. E. Pilcher, were adopted, namely:

Whereas, it is very desirable to perpetuate the friendly relations that now exist between the British Wesleyan Connection and the Methodist Episcopal Church in these United States; therefore,

*Resolved*, That, in compliance with the request of Dr. Hannah, the representative of the British Conference, this General Conference elect two delegates to attend the British Conference in 1857, for the purpose of bearing to them our fraternal salutations.

Committee on the Book Concern to inquire into the expedience of disconnecting our weekly Church periodicals from the Book Concern.

On motion of Stephen Allen, seconded by George Pratt, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Book Concern be, and they hereby are instructed to consider the expedience of disconnecting all our weekly Church periodicals from the Book Concern, and devolving their management and support upon those Conferences that mainly patronize them.



James Drummond moved the following resolution, second-  
ed by Gordon Battelle, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they hereby are instructed to consider the expedience of striking out the words "or schools," found in paragraph 4 of chap. iii, Part III, page 177, of our Discipline.

May 12, 1856.

Shall persons not members of the Church be trustees of our schools?

D. D. Buck moved an amendment to include among the words to be struck from the paragraph alluded to in the resolution, the word "churches." On motion of H. Kinsley, the amendment was laid on the table, after which the resolution as submitted was adopted.

Amendment to strike out "churches." Laid on the table.

On motion of H. Mattison, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to consider the propriety of making the following emendations in the Discipline: To expunge from the list of exceptions to the rule limiting the term of ministerial service in the same charge to two years, on page 41 of the Discipline, the words, "also the preacher or preachers that may be stationed in New-Orleans."

Resolution for Committee on Revisals on striking out the exception in favor of preachers stationed in New-Orleans.

On motion of Hiram Kinsley, seconded by J. Flower, the following resolutions were adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they hereby are instructed to consider the expedience of striking out the words "bishop, elder, deacon, or preacher," on page 98 of the Discipline, in section four, answer first, and inserting "preacher in charge," and report thereon.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they hereby are instructed to consider the expedience of inserting the word "annually" in the Discipline on page 181, answer 2, after the words "there shall be," and report thereon.

Committee on Revisals instructed to inquire whether accused members shall not be tried before a preacher in charge only. Committee on Revisals to inquire whether District Stewards shall meet annually?

On motion of T. J. Thompson, seconded by J. Cunningham, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering the Discipline, Part I, chap. iv, sec. 11, Answer 9 to question first, as to insert after the words "properly distinguished," the following clause: "The number of churches or houses of worship in his charge," so that the entire answer may read thus: "To take an exact account of the members in society, and of the probationers in their respective circuits and stations, keeping the names of all Local Elders, Deacons, and Preachers, properly distinguished; the number of churches or houses of worship in his charge, and deliver in such account to the Annual Conference, that their number may be printed in the Minutes."

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether the number of churches or houses of worship shall be included in the Annual Statistical Report.

On motion of T. J. Thompson, seconded by G. R. Crooks, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of striking out that part of Section 1 of chap. iv, Part I, of the Discipline, which reads as follows :

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether preachers may not be appointed in the same city more than four successive years.

May 12, 1856

"Nor in the same city more than four years in succession; nor return him to it after such term of service till he shall have been absent four years."

On motion of F. Hodgson, seconded by G. R. Crooks, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Committee on Itinerancy to inquire whether accepting civil office shall disqualify for membership of the General Conference.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Itinerancy be, and they hereby are instructed to inquire into the expedience of adding to the answer to the question, Who shall compose the General Conference? p. 32, these words, namely: "Nevertheless, should one thus qualified accept of civil office, he shall thereby be disqualified for a seat in the General Conference, and the disqualification thus incurred shall remain until removed by a vote of the Annual Conference of which he is a member."

On motion of L. L. Knox, seconded by Stephen Allen, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Chairmen of committees to confer as to time of meeting.

*Resolved*, That the chairmen of the several standing committees be requested to consult together, and, so far as they shall find it practicable, fix the times for those committees to meet, so that they shall not conflict with each other; and to publish those times of meeting in the Daily Christian Advocate.

On motion of E. Thomson, seconded by James Porter, the following resolution was adopted, by a vote of 68 to 32:

Committee on Revisals instructed to inquire into the expedience of districting the work of the Superintendents every four years.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering the Discipline as to provide for the districting of the work of the Superintendents every four years in such mode as not to interfere with the Itinerant General Superintendency.

On motion of Heman Bangs, seconded by J. M. Reid, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether Presiding Elders should be elected by the Annual Conferences severally, &c.

1. *Resolved*, That the Committee on the Itinerancy be directed to inquire into the expedience of having the Presiding Elders elected by the several Annual Conferences.

2. Inquire whether the Presiding Elders should not be made a *legal council* to the bishops in stationing the preachers.

3. That should they find the above alterations expedient, they report a plan complete, to be inserted in the Discipline.

Report of the General Mission Committee. Read and referred.

H. W. Reed presented the Quadrennial Report of the General Mission Committee, and after it was read it was referred to the Committee on Missions. [For Report, see *Appendix S.*]

Closed doors.

On motion of W. Cox, Conference determined to sit with closed doors on to-morrow, to try the appeal of Isaac N. M'Abbee.

On motion of B. M. Hall, seconded by H. L. Starks, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether the men and women shall be still met apart in large societies.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of the expunging from Discipline the following words on page 59: "To meet the men and women apart, in the large societies, once a quarter, wherever it is practicable."

On motion of Heman Bangs, the Report of the Committee on Temporal Economy, submitted on Saturday, was taken up.

May 12, 1856.  
Report of Committee on Temporal Economy taken up.

After some discussion Henry Slicer moved to lay the report on the table, but the motion was lost by a vote of 59 to 64.

Motion to lay the Report on the table.  
Lost.

On motion of E. Thompson, a call of Conference was ordered, when 137 members answered to their names, whereupon the chair decided that there was not a quorum present, and that he could entertain no motion except to adjourn. A motion was then made by Henry Slicer, that we do now adjourn, but the motion did not prevail. A second motion to adjourn was made by E. Thompson, and was lost by a vote of 52 to 60.

Call of Conference.

Not a quorum present.

Motion to adjourn.  
Lost.

Motion to adjourn.  
Lost.

On motion, Conference adjourned, because there was not a quorum present.

Adjourned for want of a quorum.

Benediction by Dr. Ryerson.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1856.

May 13, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Israel Chamberlayne, of the Genesee Conference.

It appearing on count that a quorum was present, the Journal of yesterday was read.

At this stage of the proceedings, John A. Collins, seconded by James B. Finley, submitted the following preamble and resolution, namely:

Whereas, the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church provides that "at all times when the General Conference is met it shall take two thirds of the representatives of all the Annual Conferences to make a quorum for transacting business;" and whereas no quorum was present during the session of yesterday; therefore,

Preamble and resolution, declaring the proceedings of yesterday morning to be null and void.

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the proceedings of the members of the General Conference on yesterday morning be, and the same are hereby declared null and void, and that they be not entered on the Journal.

On motion of I. N. Baird the foregoing preamble and resolution were laid on the table.

Preamble and resolution, laid on the table.

On motion of Z. Phillips, the Journal as read was then approved.

Journal approved.

May 18, 1856.  
Special order of  
the day sus-  
pended.

Joint communi-  
cation from the  
Book Agents  
at New-York  
and Cincinnati.  
Read and re-  
ferred.

Communication  
from the Con-  
gregational  
Union of En-  
gland and  
Wales.  
Read.

Resolution ex-  
pressing frat-  
ernal reciprocity.  
Committee or-  
dered to pre-  
pare a reply.

N. Wilson's sub-  
stitute for the  
foregoing.  
Laid on the ta-  
ble.

H. Mattison's  
substitute.

Laid on the ta-  
ble and the  
original resolu-  
tion adopted.  
Communication  
from the Board  
of Managers of  
the Sunday-  
School Union.  
Referred.

L. S. Jacoby  
has leave to  
address the  
Conference.

Ministers resid-  
ing in Indian-  
apolis invited  
to seats within  
the bar of the  
Conference.

On motion of John S. Porter, the special order of the day was suspended for the present.

Z. Phillips presented a joint communication from the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati. The communication was read, and referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

The chair presented a communication from the Congregational Union of England and Wales, which was read. [For Address, see *Appendix J.*] After which John Kennaday, seconded by James B. Finley, moved the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That most fraternally reciprocating the Christian sentiments expressed in the communication from the Congregational Union of England and Wales, this communication be published in our Church papers, and that a committee of five be appointed to prepare a suitable response thereto.

Norval Wilson moved as a substitute that the communication be referred to the bishops, with a request that they respond in a communication with their signatures attached.

On motion of H. Bangs, the substitute was laid on the table.

H. Mattison presented the following substitute, namely :

*Resolved*, That we most cordially reciprocate the fraternal and Christian sentiments of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, as expressed in the communication to this body; and that a committee of      be appointed to report a suitable response to the same.

On motion, this substitute was also laid on the table; after which the original resolution was adopted.

The chair presented a communication from a Committee of the Board of Managers of the Sunday School Union.

On motion of James Floy, it was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools.

The chair announced that L. S. Jacoby, superintendent of our missions in Germany, wished to leave the seat of the Conference at an early period, and that, before leaving, he desired to address the Conference. Leave was given, and he addressed the Conference briefly in relation to Methodism in Germany.

On motion of J. Kennaday, the following resolution was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the ministers of the different denominations of Christians in this city be invited to take seats within the bar of the Conference.



D. W. Bristol presented a memorial from Danby on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

May 13, 1856.  
Memorial from Danby on Boundaries. Referred.  
Special order of the day taken up.

On motion of William Cox, the special order of the day, to wit, the appeal of Isaac N. M'Abbe, an expelled member of the Pittsburgh Conference, was taken up.

On motion of I. N. Baird, Daniel De Motte and Levi Johnson were appointed doorkeepers during the consideration of this case.

Doorkeepers appointed.

On motion of Pennell Coombe, the appeal was taken up; and on further motion of P. Coombe, the appeal was admitted.

Appeal of I. N. M'Abbe taken up and admitted.

George W. Walker then stated, in behalf of the appellant, the ground of the appeal, namely :

Grounds of Appeal stated.

That the testimony is insufficient to sustain the action of the Pittsburgh Conference in this case.

The Journal of the Pittsburgh Conference, setting forth the charges and specifications, together with the findings of the Conference, was then read. After which, the testimony adduced before the Annual Conference was read.

Journal of Pittsburgh Conference read.  
Testimony read.

The appellant in person then addressed the Conference. Pending his argument, on motion of William Cox, Conference agreed to meet this afternoon at two and a half o'clock.

Appellant addresses the Conference.  
Afternoon session.

At five minutes before twelve o'clock A. M., Conference adjourned, with the benediction by Rev. Mr. Scott, of Ireland.

Adjournment.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Morris in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by E. H. Pilcher, of the Michigan Conference. On motion, Conference ordered a call of the roll, when it appeared that a quorum was present.

Call of Conference. A quorum present.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

On motion of A. M. Osbon, the case under consideration when the Conference adjourned was suspended for the present.

A. M. Osbon presented a communication from the Board of Managers of the Tract Society, and it was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause.

Appeal of I. N. M'Abbe suspended for the present.  
Communication from the Board of Managers of the Tract Cause. Referred.  
Appeal of I. N. M'Abbe resumed.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the appeal of I. N. M'Abbe was taken up, and the appellant resumed his defense. At the

May 18, 1856.

S. Wakefield replies in defense of the action of his conference.

George W. Walker closes the pleadings.

Delegates of Pittsburgh Conference excused from voting.  
A. Griffith excused from voting.

Action of the Pittsburgh Conference reversed.

Motion instructing Committee on Trials and Appeals to report.  
Motion laid on the table.

Resolutions declaratory of the meaning of the General Rule on Slavery.

Resolution fixing the time for the election.

close of his plea, a motion was made that Conference take a recess for ten minutes; but the motion did not prevail.

S. Wakefield, having been designated for that purpose by his co-delegates, replied in defense of the action of the Pittsburgh Conference.

George W. Walker responded in behalf of the appellant, and the pleadings closed.

On motion of S. Wakefield, the delegates of the Pittsburgh Conference were, at their own request, excused from voting.

On motion of W. L. Harris, A. Griffith was, at his own request, excused from voting, inasmuch as he had been necessarily absent during the reading of the greater part of the testimony.

On motion of James B. Finley, seconded by Thomas B. Sargent, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the action of the Pittsburgh Conference, in the case of Isaac N. M'Abbe, by which he was expelled from the Methodist Episcopal Church, be, and the same is hereby reversed.

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 138 to 16.

Henry Slicer moved that the Committee on Trials and Appeals be instructed to report on Friday morning next.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, the motion of Henry Slicer was laid on the table.

The following resolutions, presented by Asa J. Dana, and seconded by Charles Blakeslee, were, on motion of John Kennaday, referred to the Committee on Slavery:

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That, as the highest judicial authority of the Church, we do hereby declare that the true meaning of the item in the General Rules concerning the buying and selling of men, women, &c., is to *prohibit* not only the trade in slaves in numbers together, as some interpret it, but the buying or selling of any individual.

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the following note be appended in the margin of the page to the said item in the General Rules, namely: The intent and purpose of this rule is fully to forbid the purchase or sale of any slave or slaves, except it be for immediate liberation; and whoever buys or sells any slave, except for this purpose, violates the rule.

The following resolution was submitted by M. D'C. Crawford, seconded by E. Cooke, namely:

*Resolved*, That the election of General Conference officers, namely, Corresponding Secretaries, Editors, and Book Agents, be the order of the day for Thursday the 15th inst., immediately after the reading of the Journal.

On motion of William Cooper, the foregoing resolution was laid on the table.

Peter Cartwright presented two memorials in relation to Book Depository and Church paper at St. Louis, and they were referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

S. Van Deusen, Chairman of the Committee on Sunday Schools, presented a report in part, and it was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and the benediction by Bishop Waugh.

May 12, 1856.  
Resolution laid on the table.

Memorial on Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis. Referred.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools. Laid on the table to be printed.

Adjournment.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 14, 1856.

May 14, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Janes in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by James B. Finley, of the Cincinnati Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

The reports of standing committees were called for.

Heman Bangs, Chairman of the Committee on Temporal Economy, presented a further report in part, and it was adopted in words following, to wit:

Report of standing committees.

Report of the Committee on Temporal Economy.

The Committee on Temporal Economy beg leave to report in part:

1. On the communication from J. Jepson, and also a memorial from Niagara District Preachers' Meeting, respecting the Insurance of Church Property, they report the adoption of the proposed plan inexpedient.

On Church Insurance.

2. On the memorial of William Herr, asking the General Conference to establish an official meeting, with authority to fix and apportion the amount of Preachers' Claims, they report action on the subject unnecessary.

On Memorial of W. Herr, relating to Preachers' Claims.

3. On the memorial of Joseph Cook, asking action requiring charges to furnish horses and traveling apparatus for the use of stationed preachers, they report that we deem the proposed plan inexpedient in the present state of our work.

On Memorial of Joseph Cook in relation to facilities for travelling circuits.

May 13th.

H. BANGS, Chairman.

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, presented a report, in part, in words following, to wit:

The Committee on the Itinerancy beg leave to report, that they have received memorials from Newcastle, East Maine Conference; from Akron Quarterly Conference; from Adams, Black River Conference; from the First Methodist Episcopal Church, New-Haven, New-York East Conference; all asking for an Extension of Ministerial Term of Service, but scarce any two of them agreeing as to the precise limit; some of the petitioners asking an extension to three years, others to five, and yet others to an indefinite term. All these petitioners collectively make scarcely an aggregate of one hundred names. We have also had referred to us the resolutions of the New-York Conference, remonstrating against any extension of time; and likewise a memorial from the majority of the

Report of the Committee on Itinerancy on Extension of Time of Ministerial Service.

May 14, 1856.

official members of the Duane-street Church, New-York, adverse to the proposed change. The committee have given these papers a proper measure of consideration, and have arrived at the conclusion, that the interests of the Church do not demand, neither will be promoted by making provision for, further extension of ministerial service. The discussions had in committee have elicited, among many others, the following views :

The memorialists in favor of the change proposed are too few in number to authorize such a vital modification in our economy ; and only induce the belief, that after an extended discussion of this question through the press, and by other means, the great mass both of preachers and people give a decided preference for the two years' rule. The committee have likewise been led to the conclusion, that the arguments usually adduced in favor of an extension of ministerial service, such as the greater probable mental improvement of the ministry, the more thorough acquaintance with and consequent influence over the congregation, &c., are arguments that go more directly to the advocacy of a settled ministry in the stead of our itinerancy, than to the extension of the term of service from two to three years.

The committee, therefore, governed by these and many other considerations, not now necessary to name, strongly as they desire to meet the wishes of the people, whether few or many, find themselves unable to coincide in sentiment with the prayer of the petitioners, and conclude with recommending the following resolution for adoption :

*Resolved, &c.,* That it is inexpedient at this time to extend the term of ministerial service beyond the present assigned limits of two years.

Motion to re-commit, with instructions.

After the report was read, John P. Durbin moved to recommit the report, with instruction to the committee to report in favor of extending the time of ministerial service on circuits and stations to three years, at the discretion of the Annual Conferences severally.

Call for the previous question not sustained.

James Drummond moved the previous question, but the motion was not sustained. Thomas H. Pearne, seconded by John B. Merwin, presented the following substitute for the motion of J. P. Durbin, namely :

Substitute for motion to re-commit.

*Resolved,* That we recommit the report, with instructions to report in favor of extending the time to not more than three years, by the consent of the Annual Conference, at the request of the bishop presiding.

The subject of debate was here stayed, the chair stating that the delegates from the Wesleyan Connection in Canada were about to leave for home, and that they desired to address the Conference before their departure.

Delegates from Canada address the Conference.

Dr. Ryerson and Rev. Mr. Jones then addressed the Conference in relation to the Itinerancy in Canada, and especially concerning the extension of time of ministerial service on circuits and stations in Canada ; first, from two to three years, and then from three to five years. At the conclusion



of their remarks, the matter under consideration was resumed. May 14, 1856.

On motion of H. Bangs, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet in Wesley Chapel this afternoon at half past two o'clock, to hear a sermon from the Rev. Dr. Hannah, the representative of the Wesleyan Conference in Great Britain.

Afternoon session to be in Wesley Chapel to hear a sermon from Dr. Hannah.

The chair announced the following committee to reply to the Address of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, namely : John Kennaday, Francis Hodgson, Solomon Howard, Joseph Brooks, and S. W. Coggeshall.

Committee to reply to the Address from the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

On motion Conference adjourned.

Adjournment.

Benediction by William Reddy.

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met at Wesley Chapel pursuant to adjournment ; Bishop Scott in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by John H. Power, of the North Ohio Conference.

Afternoon session in Wesley Chapel.

The Journal of the forenoon was read and approved.

Conference then proceeded to the order of the day, and Rev. Dr. Hannah introduced the religious services preliminary to his sermon by reading the 219th hymn, commencing,

Religious services preliminary to preaching.

"Jesus, the name high over all,  
In hell, or earth, or sky," &c.

1 Hymn.

After the hymn was sung, Dr. Hannah led the devotions of the Conference in an earnest prayer to the throne of Grace.

Prayer.

He then read the sixty-third chapter of the Prophecy of Isaiah, and also the hymn, commencing,

Scripture lesson

"Lord, if at thy command,  
The word of life we sow," &c.

2 Hymn.

After this hymn was sung, Dr. Hannah announced as his text, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Cor. v, 21. From this text he delivered a deeply interesting and impressive sermon on "The Method of Man's Reconciliation with God."

Text.

Subject of sermon.

At the close of his discourse, he read the 140th hymn ; and after it was sung, P. Cartwright, of the Illinois Conference, closed the services with prayer.

May 14, 1856.

On motion of John A. Collins, seconded by George Peck, the following resolution was adopted unanimously by a rising vote, namely :

Resolution of thanks to Dr. Hannah, and a request for a copy of the sermon for publication.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That we hereby tender our cordial thanks to Rev. Dr. Hannah for his truly evangelical and able discourse, delivered before this body, and that we respectfully request a copy for publication, to be included in the catalogue of books published by authority of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On motion of John A. Collins, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Evening session to hear a sermon from Rev. Mr. Jobson.

*Resolved*, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at half past seven o'clock, to hear a sermon from Rev. Mr. Jobson, of the Wesleyan Conference in Great Britain.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and the benediction by Bishop Morris.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Evening session in Wesley Chapel.

Conference met at Wesley Chapel pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

Religious services preliminary to preaching.

The usual religious services were conducted by Dr. Ryerson, of the Canada Conference.

The Journal of this afternoon was read and approved.

Scripture lesson.

The Conference then proceeded to the order of the day, and Rev. Mr. Jobson introduced the services by reading the thirteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians. He then read the 529th hymn, commencing,

1 Hymn.

"I thirst, thou wounded Lamb of God,  
To wash me in thy cleansing blood," &c.

Prayer.

After singing and prayer, he gave out the 533d hymn, commencing :

2 Hymn.

"O God, what offering shall I give  
To thee, the Lord of earth and skies?" &c.

Text.

Rev. Mr. Jobson then announced as his text, Ephesians the third chapter, 14-21 verses, inclusive.

Subject of the sermon.

His discourse was on the "Fullness of Christian Privilege." At the conclusion of the sermon the 520th hymn was sung, and the services closed with prayer by Mr. Jobson.

Closing services.

On motion of Davis W. Clark, seconded by Henry Slicer,

the following resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote, namely :

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That we tender to the Rev. Mr. Jobson our cordial thanks for his eloquent and able sermon, and that we respectfully request a copy for publication.

Resolution of thanks and a request for a copy for publication.

On motion of D. W. Clark, it was ordered that the copies of both Dr. Hannah's sermon and that of the Rev. Mr. Jobson be given to the editors at the Western Book Concern for publication.

Copies to be given to the editors at the Western Book Concern.

Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and the benediction by Charles Elliott.

Adjournment.

## THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 15, 1856.

May 15, 1856.

Conference met this morning ; Bishop Baker in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by James Thurston, of the New-Hampshire Conference.

The Journal of last evening was read and approved.

O. V. Lemon informed the Conference that Samuel C. Cooper, a delegate from the North Indiana Conference, had, in consequence of ill health; been compelled to return home, with no prospect of being able to resume his duties again during the session; and that J. H. Hull, the first reserve delegate, was present, and ought to be admitted to a seat in this body.

S. C. Cooper excused.

J. H. Hull then presented his credentials, and was admitted to a seat as a member of the General Conference.

J. H. Hull took his seat.

On motion of O. V. Lemon, J. H. Hull was appointed to the Committee on Episcopacy instead of S. C. Cooper.

Change in Committee on Episcopacy.

On motion of O. V. Lemon, J. H. Hull, at the request of H. N. Barnes, was placed on the Committee on Revisals. in his stead.

Change in Committee on Revisals.

Heman Bangs moved the following preamble and resolution, namely :

Whereas the Discipline requires two thirds of all the delegates to form a quorum ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That no delegate be sent out to preach at such a distance that he cannot return on Monday morning in sufficient time to meet the Conference at its morning session.

Resolution not to send preachers abroad on the Sabbath.

John Kennaday moved, as a substitute, That the session on Mondays commence at half past 2 o'clock P. M., instead of 8 o'clock A. M. On motion of James Drummond, the substitute was laid on the table by a vote of 70 to 66.

Substitute to commence Monday's session at half past 2 o'clock P. M. Substitute laid on the table.

May 15, 1856.  
Resolution laid  
on the table.

On motion of Asbury Lowrey, the original resolution was laid on the table.

Appeal of J. M.  
Snow taken up.

On motion of James H. Perry, the appeal of Jonathan M. Snow was taken up.

By consent, W. H. Pearne, seconded by F. Hodgson, presented the following resolution :

Resolution re-  
quiring that  
the subject of  
resolutions be  
announced  
when offered.  
Laid on the  
table.

*Resolved*, That hereafter, during the progress of this Conference, no miscellaneous resolution or resolutions shall be received, unless the subject of the same be named by the mover.

On motion of Hiram Kinsley, this resolution was laid on the table.

Call for memo-  
rials and peti-  
tions.

By consent, the roll of Conference was called for memorials and petitions, and they were presented as follows, namely :

#### N. HAMPSHIRE.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
First Church,  
Great Falls.  
Referred.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.—Richard S. Rust presented a memorial on Slavery from the First Church, Great Falls, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Main-street,  
Great Falls.  
Referred.

James Thurston presented a memorial on Slavery from Main-street Church, Great Falls, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

#### TROY.

Memorial on  
Extension of  
Time, from  
Pittsfield.  
Referred.

TROY CONFERENCE.—Henry L. Starks presented a memorial on Extension of Time of Ministerial Service from Pittsfield Quarterly Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from the same Quarterly Meeting Conference on the subject of Lay Representation, both in the Annual and General Conferences, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

Memorial on  
Lay Represent-  
ation.  
Referred.

#### N. YORK EAST.

Memorial on  
Extension of  
Time, from  
First Place,  
Brooklyn.  
Referred.

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—James Floy presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conference of the First Place Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, Long Island, on Extending the Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy.

CALIFORNIA.  
Memorial from  
Lorenzo  
Waugh.  
Referred.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.—John D. Blain presented a memorial from Lorenzo Waugh, relating to Compensation for Missionary services, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions.

#### BLACK RIVER.

Memorial from  
Lysander on  
Presiding El-  
dership.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—James Erwin presented a memorial from Lysander on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy.

Memorial from  
Henderson on  
the Presiding  
Eldership.  
Referred.

Isaac S. Bingham presented a memorial from official members at Henderson on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itiner-



any. He also presented a memorial on Slavery from Lorraine, and one from Rome District Preachers' Convention, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

May 15, 1856.  
Memorial from  
Rome District  
on Slavery.  
Referred.

ONEIDA CONFERENCE.—Daniel W. Bristol presented a memorial on Slavery from Ludlowville, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ONEIDA.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Ludlowville.  
Referred.

Elias Bowen presented a petition from Morris Chapel, Wyoming Conference, relating to Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Memorial from  
Morris Chapel  
on Boundaries.  
Referred.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—Israel Chamberlayne presented an attested copy of the Report on Slavery adopted by the Genesee Conference at its last session, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

GENESEE.  
Copy of the Re-  
port on Slav-  
ery.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—W. H. Brockway presented a memorial from Marengo Circuit, praying that no slaveholder may hereafter be eligible to membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MICHIGAN.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Marengo.  
Referred.

OHIO CONFERENCE.—James M. Jamison presented a memorial from John Andry in relation to Compensation for Services, and it was referred to the Committee on Missions.

OHIO.  
Memorial from  
John Andry.  
Referred.

Joseph M. Trimble presented a memorial from the Ohio Conference, asking that a course of study may be prescribed for those who may apply for admission on trial in the traveling connection, and upon which course the candidate must be examined before getting his recommendation; and the memorial was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy.

Memorial on a  
course of study  
for candidates  
for admission  
on trial in the  
traveling con-  
nection.  
Referred.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—P. S. Bennett presented a memorial from Waupun Circuit on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial from Reeder Smith, of Appleton, complaining of certain matters of administration, and it was referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy.

WISCONSIN.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Waupun.  
Referred.

Memorial of  
Reeder Smith.  
Referred.

I. M. Leihy presented a memorial from Fon du Lac, south ward, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Fon du Lac.  
Referred.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—Luke Hitchcock presented a memorial asking a modification of the Presiding Eldership, from the Crete Quarterly Meeting Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from the same Quarterly Conference on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

ROCK RIVER.  
Memorial from  
Crete on the  
Presiding El-  
dership.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Crete on Slav-  
ery.  
Referred.

May 15, 1856.

CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from  
Cincinnati on  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
J. B. Finley  
and others on  
Church Insur-  
ance.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Washington  
Circuit on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Ninth-street  
on the Presid-  
ing Eldership.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Ninth-street  
on Extension  
of Time.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Ninth-street  
Church.  
Referred.

SOUTHEASTERN  
INDIANA.

Memorial on  
releasing Mrs.  
Eliza Smith  
from a debt  
due from the  
estate of her  
husband to the  
Book Concern.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
J. W. Sullivan  
to be released  
from liability  
to pay for S. S.  
Advocate.  
Referred.

BALTIMORE.  
Memorial on  
Boundaries  
from Frost-  
burg.  
Referred.

Protest from  
Bloomington  
Circuit.  
Referred.

Copy of petition  
from Bloom-  
ington in 1852.  
Referred.

NEW-ENGLAND.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Dedham.  
Referred.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—William Young presented a memorial from Cincinnati, praying for an Extension of the Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from James B. Finley and others in relation to the Insurance of Church Property, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy.

George W. Walker presented a memorial from members of the Church on Washington Circuit in relation to Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. W. Fowble presented a memorial from the Quarterly Conference and trustees of the Ninth-street Church, Cincinnati, on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from the same source on the subject of Extending the Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on the Itinerancy. He likewise presented a memorial on Slavery from the same Quarterly Conference and trustees, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.—E. G. Wood presented a memorial from Thomas M. Eddy, Presiding Elder of Indianapolis District, and W. W. Snyder, Pastor of the Shelbyville Station, praying that Mrs. Eliza Smith, widow of the late Rev. Seth Smith, be released from the debt due from the estate of her late husband to the Western Book Concern, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

F. C. Holliday presented a memorial from Rev. John W. Sullivan, praying to be released from his liability to pay for certain Sunday School Advocates, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

BALTIMORE CONFERENCE.—John A. Collins presented a memorial from Frostburg Circuit, praying that, in the division of Conference, said circuit may be included in the Baltimore Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Thomas B. Sargent presented a protest from members of the Church on Bloomington Circuit, against being set off to the Wyoming Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a copy of a petition from the same circuit in 1852, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—L. R. Thayer presented a memorial on Slavery from Dedham, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

On motion of F. G. Hibbard, seconded by Jonas Dodge, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

May 15, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals of the Discipline be, and they hereby are, instructed to report some method of Revising the Rituals of our Church.

Resolution relating to the Revision of the Rituals of the Church.

On motion of A. J. Phelps, seconded by L. W. Berry, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the propriety of amending the formula on Baptism in our Discipline, page 110, by striking out "Holy Catholic Church," and substituting instead thereof something which will not require a note of explanation.

Resolution in relation to striking out "Holy Catholic Church."

A. J. Phelps, at his own request, was excused from serving on the Committee on the Tract Cause, and P. D. Gorrie was appointed in his stead.

Change in Committee on the Tract Cause.

H. Mattison, at his own request, was excused from serving on the Committee on Education, and P. D. Gorrie was appointed in his stead.

Change in Committee on Education.

On motion of Norval Wilson, seconded by N. J. B. Morgan, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering the Discipline in regard to the Trustees of our Churches, as to constitute them members of the Quarterly Meeting Conference by virtue of their office.

Committee on Revisals to inquire whether Trustees of Churches should be members of Quarterly Conference.

On motion of J. H. Perry, the appeal of Jonathan M. Snow was admitted.

Appeal of J. M. Snow admitted

James H. Perry submitted the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That in all cases of appeal from the action of an Annual Conference, the papers to be used in evidence, and the charges and specifications upon which the appellant was tried in the Annual Conference, should be specifically referred to, and definitely identified by the Journal of the Conference, and signed by the presiding Bishop and Secretary of the Conference ; and that no paper not so identified shall be read in evidence without the consent of the parties.

Resolution in relation to documents to be used in an appeal case.

On motion of James B. Finley, the foregoing resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 84 to 45.

Laid on the table.

On proceeding to read the charges, specifications, and findings of the Conference, it was found that the document containing the charges was not so connected with the Journal as to be certainly identified by the Record ; whereupon, on motion of John Kennaday, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Documents not identified by the Record.

*Resolved*, That in consequence of informality in the Records of the Wisconsin Conference, in the case of J. M. Snow, the case be remanded to the Wisconsin Conference for a new trial.

Case remanded for a new trial.

May 15, 1856.

Consideration of Report of Committee on Itinerancy relating to the Extension of Time was resumed.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the Report of the Committee on Itinerancy, in relation to an Extension of the Time of Ministerial Service on circuits and stations, which was under consideration at the close of the forenoon's session yesterday, was taken up.

Substitute amended.

The substitute offered yesterday morning by T. H. Pearne being before the Conference, on motion of Hiram Kinsley, the substitute was amended by striking out the words "by the consent of the Annual Conference at the request of the bishop presiding," leaving the substitute to read thus :

Substitute as amended.

*Resolved*, That we recommit the report, with instructions to report in favor of extending the time to not more than three years.

Vote to be taken by yeas and nays.

On motion of John A. Collins, Conference resolved that the vote on the question be taken by yeas and nays.

Call for the previous question sustained.

John S. Porter moved that the question be now taken without further debate, and 164 members voting for the motion, the call for the previous question was sustained. The roll of Conference was then called, and the vote was given as follows, namely :

*Ayes.*

*Ayes.*—Baker, Barnes, Bennett, Bingham, Blain, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brown of Troy, Buck of East Genesee, Burns, Britton, Carlton, Chamberlayne, Coggeshall, Cooke, Coombe, Cox, Crews, Crooks, Culver, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Durbin, Dustin, Erwin, Evans, Farrington, Floy, Fowble, Gillet, Gorrie, Gregg, Griswold, Gurley, Hall, Harris, Hawkins, Hibbard, Hill of Erie, Hitchcock, Hosmer, Hoyt, Hulburd, Hull, Kennaday, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kinsley, Leihy, Lemon, Livesey, Lowrey, Mattison, Merwin, Moffitt, Morey, Nast, Parks of Troy, Pearne of Oregon, Perry, Phelps, Phillips, Pilcher of Michigan, Raymond, Reddy, Reid of New-York East, Requa, Rice of New-England, Roberts, Rust, Sapp, Simonds, Starks, Stanton, Thayer, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Waite, Watson, Watts, Webster, Wise, Witherspoon, Young of Cincinnati—91.

*Nays.*

*Nays.*—Allen of Maine, Allyn of Southern Illinois, Baird, Bannister, Barker, Battelle, Beach, Berry, Bewley, Blake, Blakeslee, Bowen, Bowers, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Brooks of Iowa, Brouse, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of Illinois, Bur-



lingham, Carpenter, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Collins of Baltimore, Collins of Michigan, Connell, Conrey, Cooper, Corrington, Crary, Crawford, Crowell, Cunningham, Dana, Dimmitt, Drummond, Felch, Finley, Flower, French, Goheen, Graham, Griffen of New-York, Griffin of Troy, Griffith, Hamilton, Haney, Heath, Henderson, Hill of Indiana, Hirst, Hodgson, Holliday, Hopkins, Howard, Jamison, Kenney, King of New-York, Kingsley of Genesee, Kisling, Knox, Kuhl, Lananhan, Lauck, Lenhart, Lewis, Luccock, M'Coombs, Marcy, Martin of Northwestern Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Monroe, Morgan, Mulfinger, Nichols, Osbon, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Wyoming, Peck, Pilcher of North Ohio, Pillsbury, Poe, Poisal, Porter of New-England, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Pratt, Quigley, Randall, Reed of Iowa, Reese, Rice of New-York, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sanderson, Sargent, Slicer, Smith of New-Hampshire, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Stallard, Starr, Swaim, Talbot, Thompson of Philadelphia, Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Van Deusen, Wakefield, Walker, Wallace, Washburn, Wheeler, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wilson of Erie, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, and Young of Ohio—127.

May 15, 1856.

*Declined voting.*—Bangs—1.

H. Bangs did not vote.  
M'Clintock absent.

*Absent.*—J. M'Clintock, in consequence of sickness in his family, 1.

Pending the call of ayes and noes, a motion was made by John A. Collins, that the session be prolonged till final action upon the report, and the motion was carried.

Session prolonged.

The vote on the substitute stands, Yeas, 91; Nays, 127; and the substitute was lost.

J. P. Durbin, with consent of Conference, withdrew his motion to recommit with instructions.

Motion to recommit with instructions withdrawn.

On motion of John A. Collins, the resolution contained in the report of the committee, as originally submitted, was adopted in words following, namely:

*Resolved*, That it is inexpedient at this time to extend the Term of Ministerial Service beyond the present assigned limits of two years.

Resolution of the Report adopted.

On motion of John P. Durbin, the whole report, except the foregoing resolution, was laid on the table.

Report, except the resolution, laid on the table.  
Adjournment.

Conference closed with the benediction by Phineas Rice.

May 16, 1856.

## FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 16, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Ames in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Edward Thomson, of North Ohio Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Session next  
Monday to  
commence at  
2 o'clock.

On motion of John A. Collins, it was resolved that the session on Monday next commence at two o'clock in the afternoon, instead of eight o'clock in the morning.

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, presented a report, and it was adopted in words following, namely :

Report on the  
Memorial of  
D. J. Snow.  
Adopted.

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report on the memorial of D. J. Snow, of Illinois Conference, who complains, first, that he was located in an illegal and informal manner by said Conference, in the year 1848, and thereby compelled to engage in secular business; second, that by an equally illegal process he, the said memorialist, was expelled from the Conference and the Church in 1853, which action ruined his business and involved him in a loss of several thousand dollars.

The above-named memorialist prays that the General Conference will take measures to ascertain whether, under the constitution of the Church, an annual conference can legally suspend the claim of a traveling elder upon the funds of the Church, and then determine that said suspension cancels the obligation.

The committee are of opinion that the disposition of the case belongs to the Annual Conference of which the memorialist is a member, and would express their conviction that the brethren of that Conference will do ample justice in the case. The committee request to be released from the further consideration of the memorial.

On motion of W. Hamilton, the report of the Committee on Missions was taken up.

Episcopal au-  
thority in  
Africa con-  
sidered.

Isaac Parks moved, that so much of the report as relates to Episcopal authority in Africa be adopted. Pending this motion, the first resolution was read, when John A. Collins moved to amend it by striking out the words, "and have episcopal jurisdiction in Africa only."

Motion to  
amend by  
striking out.

Pending the discussion, John S. Porter, seconded by H. Mattison, moved the following resolutions, as a substitute for both the resolution and amendment under consideration, namely :

Substitute of-  
fered.

*Resolved*, That in case the Liberia Annual Conference shall elect some person to exercise the office of a bishop among them, this General Conference authorize our bishops, or any one of them, to ordain such person for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That should the Church in Africa organize an independent Church, as contemplated in the preceding resolution, it

does not follow that we shall cease to foster and help them by our missionary funds, but that we shall still be at liberty to make appropriations for that work, so long as they shall maintain the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

May 16, 1856.

When this substitute was submitted, John A. Collins withdrew his amendment to strike out a certain portion of the first resolution of the report.

Amendment to strike out withdrawn.

Minor Raymond moved to lay both the substitute and the original resolution on the table. A division of the question being called for, the vote was first taken on laying the substitute on the table, and the motion was carried by a vote of 108 to 75; after which the first resolution of the report was laid on the table by a vote of 112 to 67.

Resolution and substitute both laid on the table.

On motion of Henry Slicer, the report, so far as it relates to Episcopal authority in Africa, was taken up and recommended.

Francis Hodgson moved to take the substitute offered by J. S. Porter from the table, in order to refer it to the Committee on Missions.

Motion to take up and refer the substitute.

Barnes M. Hall moved to lay this motion on the table, but the motion did not prevail; after which, the substitute was taken up, and referred.

Motion to lay on the table. Lost. Substitute taken up and referred.

F. G. Hibbard, seconded by A. Lowrey, submitted the following preamble and resolution, to wit:

*Whereas*, in the opinion of this Conference, a bishop should be elected to preside over the Church in Africa, who shall reside in that country;

Preamble relating to a change of the 3d Restrictive Rule.

And, *Whereas*, the present rule of our Discipline requires that our General Superintendents shall travel at large through our work; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we so far alter the 3d Restrictive Rule of sec. 2, ans. 5 to question 1, page 38, as to add, "nevertheless, the Bishop of Africa shall not be subject to this rule, but shall be restricted in his jurisdiction to Africa.

This preamble and resolution were, on motion of J. P. Durbin, referred to the Committee on Missions.

Preamble and resolution referred.

On motion of S. Van Deusen, the residue of the report of the committee was laid on the table.

Residue of the report laid on the table.

On motion of S. Van Deusen, the time of the session was extended till Conference shall adjourn on motion.

Session prolonged.

The appointments for preaching on the coming Sabbath were announced by the Committee on Public Worship.

Appointments for preaching announced.

Seymour Van Deusen, Chairman of the Committee on Sunday Schools, presented a report, and it was adopted in words following, to wit:

May 16, 1856.  
Report of Com-  
mittee on Sun-  
day Schools.  
Adopted.

The Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report further in part:

That they have had before them the subject of a Sunday-school demonstration some time during the session of this body, and, after consultation with several of the pastors and Sunday-school superintendents in this city, believe that such demonstration is both desirable and practicable, and therefore,

Two Sunday-  
school meet-  
ings to be held.

1. *Resolved*, That two meetings be held on Wednesday, 21st inst., one for children at 3 o'clock P. M., and another for adults at 7½ o'clock in the evening.

Committee to  
make arrange-  
ments.

2. *Resolved*, That the Committee on Sunday Schools be authorized to make all suitable arrangements for such meetings.

Memorial from  
Samuel Wil-  
liams relating  
to a Cheap  
Commentary.

Bishop Simpson presented a memorial from Samuel Williams, of Cincinnati, on the subject of a Cheap Commentary on the Holy Scriptures; and it was laid on the table in order that it may be read in Conference before it is referred to a committee.

Laid on the  
table to be read  
before referring  
it.

Memorial from  
Philadelphia  
on Lay Repre-  
sentation.  
Referred.

John P. Durbin presented a memorial from members of the Church in Philadelphia in relation to Lay Representation, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy, and ordered to be printed.

Memoria's from  
Geneva on the  
Presiding Eld-  
ership and on  
Lay Represent-  
ation.  
Referred.

F. G. Hibbard presented two memorials, one from Geneva Quarterly Conference, on the subject of the Presiding Eldership, and one from ministers and official members of the Church in Geneva, on Lay Representation, and they were both referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Memorial on  
Lay Delega-  
tion.  
Re-referred.

H. Bangs presented a memorial on Lay Delegation, which was on yesterday presented by H. L. Starks, and referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy; and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Ames.

May 17, 1856.

## SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 17, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious exercises were conducted by Pennell Coombe, of the Philadelphia Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

\*Regular order  
suspended.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the regular order of business was suspended for the present.

Secretary to fur-  
nish copy of  
the action, &c.,  
in the case of  
D. J. Snow.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the Secretary was instructed to furnish him with a copy of the action of this body on the appeal from the decision of the Illinois Conference in the case of D. J. Snow, together with a copy of the me-



morial of the said Snow, and of the report of the committee thereon adopted by the Conference.

May 17, 1856.

On motion of S. Van Deusen, the vote adopting the report of the Committee on Sunday Schools, relating to a public demonstration in this city during the session of Conference yesterday, was reconsidered. The report was then amended, by striking out from the first resolution the words "Wednesday the 21st instant," and inserting "Thursday, the 22d instant;" after which the report, as amended, was adopted.

Reconsideration, amendment, and adoption of the Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools.

J. Porter, seconded by J. P. Durbin, submitted the following preamble and resolution, and they were adopted, namely :

*Whereas* many hundreds, if not thousands, of our members are annually lost from our Church by not presenting their notes of recommendation when they remove from one circuit to another; therefore,

Preamble and resolution concerning members removing from one charge to another.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and hereby are, instructed to inquire if some measure may not be devised by which this evil may be remedied.

The following resolution, submitted by J. Porter, and seconded by Thomas H. Pearne, was referred to the Committee on Revisals, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Discipline be amended by striking out the word "up," page 29, in the sentence, "By running with patience the race which is set up before them." Also, by striking out, "and worn-out preachers," page 41, fifth line from top.

Proposition to strike out "up" from a certain phrase in the Discipline. Referred.

J. Porter, seconded by E. Thomson, submitted the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Discipline, Part I, ch. iv, sec. 1, Ques. 3, Ans. 3, page 41, immediately following the words, "Seminaries of learning which are, or may be, under our superintendence," be amended by the insertion of these words: "Except also, in special cases, where he shall judge that the interests of the work require it, he may continue a preacher in the same circuit or station the third year, provided that an annual conference, voting on the case by his request, shall recommend it."

Resolution to remove the restriction on the appointing power in special cases.

On motion of G. W. Walker, this resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 80 to 65.

Laid on the table.

John P. Durbin, seconded by James Porter, submitted the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the following be incorporated in the Discipline as indicated :

3d. "It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference annually to appoint a committee to audit the accounts of each Superintendent of Missions within its bounds, and report to the Conference." (See Discipline, ch. iv, p. 190.)

Committee to audit the accounts of Superintendents of Missions. Referred to Committee on Revisals.

This resolution was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

May 17, 1856.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the regular order of business was resumed.

Report relating to Bishop for Liberia.

Annual Conference in Germany.

Book Concern in Germany. Laid on the table under the rule.

William Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented a report in relation to a Missionary Bishop for Liberia; also a report in relation to an Annual Conference in Germany; also a report relating to a Book Concern in Germany; and they were laid on the table one day, under the rule, and ordered to be printed.

William Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented a further report, as follows, namely:

Report of the Committee on Missions relating to a division of the missionary organization into Home and Foreign Departments.

Report relating to Conrad Muth.

Report relating to superannuated men in foreign missions.

Liberia Conference to have books at the same prices as our own Depositories.

Action of the Missionary Board in appropriating funds to Methodist bodies, in fraternal correspondence with our Church.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to report further:

1. We have considered the memorial from the New-England Conference as to a division of the missionary organization into Foreign and Domestic Missionary Societies, and recommend that the suggestion in the memorial be not adopted, for the reason that, in our opinion, it would reduce the aggregate receipts, and make an undue division of the receipts between the foreign and domestic work, in favor of foreign missions.

2. FURTHER.—We have carefully considered the papers referring to Conrad Muth, presented by Brother Crary, and find no case on which a report can be made, as no case is stated. But if the papers are to be supervised at all, they belong to the Annual Conference.

3. FURTHER.—We have duly considered the communication from the New-York East Conference, in reference to the superannuated men whose health failed in foreign missions, and beg leave to report that, in the judgment of the committee, the Constitution of the Missionary Society, in article FIFTH, makes sufficient provision for such cases.

4. FURTHER.—We have duly considered the request of the Liberia Annual Conference, asking aid for their infant Book Concern, and recommend that the Agents of the Book Concern furnish them with books for cash, at such prices as they furnish them to our own Depositories.

5. FURTHER.—We have duly considered the recommendation of the General Missionary Committee at its session in 1855, that the Board obtain the formal sanction of the General Conference to their construction of the Constitution, by virtue of which they make appropriations to aid missions of other Methodist bodies which are in fraternal correspondence with the General Conference, and recommend that we approve of the action of the General Committee and Board in the premises.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Report considered item by item.

Call for the previous question sustained.

First item adopted.

Second item adopted.

On motion of F. C. Holliday, Conference proceeded to consider this report item by item. Pending the discussion of the first item, Thomas H. Pearne moved that the vote be taken without further debate; and this motion being sustained by a vote of more than two thirds, the vote was taken accordingly, and the item was adopted.

The second item was read, and, on motion of F. C. Holliday, it was adopted.

After the third item had been read, William Graham moved its adoption. Pending this motion, J. Z. Nichols moved that the item be laid on the table, and the motion prevailed.

May 17, 1856.  
Third item laid on the table.

The fourth item was read, and on motion of F. C. Holliday it was adopted.

Fourth item adopted.

The fifth item was read, and on motion of F. C. Holliday it was adopted.

Fifth item adopted.

F. G. Hibbard, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals, presented a report relating to the following matters, to wit: changing the place of holding an annual conference; the note on page 110 of the Discipline; and the chapter on Dress. The report was read, and lies over under the rule.

Minor Raymond, Chairman of the Committee on Slavery, presented a report in part, and it was adopted as follows, to wit:

Report in part of the Committee on Slavery. Adopted.

The Committee on Slavery beg leave to report in part:

That certain papers relating to the Tract Cause have been referred to the Committee on Slavery; that they consider themselves sufficiently employed in considering the main question committed to them; that the same subject contained in said papers has been referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause; and they therefore ask that all papers relating to the Tract Cause be referred to the Tract Committee.

Elias Bowen, Chairman of the Committee on the Bible Cause, presented a report on that subject. After it was read, the resolutions were taken up in order and acted upon severally.

Report of the Committee on the Bible Cause.

The first and second resolutions were read and adopted. Pending the consideration of the third resolution, Hiram Kinsley moved to amend it by adding these words: "but we do not desire special agents to be sent among us to raise collections." On motion of J. Z. Nichols the amendment was laid on the table. The third, fourth, and fifth resolutions were then adopted.

First and second resolutions adopted. Proposition to amend the third resolution.

Amendment laid on the table. Third, fourth, and fifth resolutions adopted.

On motion of H. Bangs the report was adopted as a whole.

Report as a whole adopted.

The following are the resolutions included in the report on the Bible Cause, and adopted by the Conference, namely:

Resolutions on the Bible Cause. Adopted.

1. *Resolved*, That this General Conference cherishes the most cordial and undiminished confidence in the American Bible Society, and hereby recommends the ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church to coöperate with it, and exert themselves to carry out its noble and benevolent designs.

2. *Resolved*, That we highly approve of the intention and effort of the Board of Managers to secure a systematic and thorough

May 17, 1856.

reexploration and re-supply of the entire country, and that we recommend our ministers and members everywhere to coöperate in this work, and help to carry the plan into effect in their several fields of labor.

3. *Resolved*, That inasmuch as the successful carrying out of the designs of the American Bible Society depends on the efficiency of its auxiliaries, we recommend all under our charge to coöperate with those auxiliaries, to encourage, strengthen, and assist them.

4. *Resolved*, That in declining all attempts or movements toward a new translation of the Bible, the Society is entitled to our warmest thanks, and for its pains to furnish an entirely pure and correct edition of the Bible in our commonly received English version.

5. *Resolved*, In view of the importance of this whole subject, we hereby recommend to each minister in the connection to preach at least once a year on this subject, and generally at the time when he makes his annual collection for the Bible cause.

[For the Report in full, see *Appendix S*.]

Joseph Holdich  
addresses the  
Conference.

While the foregoing report was under consideration, Joseph Holdich, one of the Secretaries of the American Bible Society, on motion of Thomas H. Pearne, was invited to address the Conference on the subject-matter of the report; whereupon, in a brief but pertinent address, he urged the claims of the American Bible Society upon the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On motion of H. Bangs, the Secretary was instructed to furnish a copy of the foregoing report to the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society.

Temperance re-  
port presented,  
read, and laid  
on the table.

Henry Slicer, Chairman of the Committee on Temperance, submitted a report, which was read, and, on motion of M. D'C. Crawford, was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

H. Mattison, seconded by A. J. Dana, moved the following resolution, namely:

General Dele-  
gate of the  
American  
Bible Society.

*Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this General Conference, it is not necessary, so far as our Annual Conferences are concerned, that a special General Delegate should be employed by the American Bible Society to visit us at our annual sessions.

Exceptions to  
the introduc-  
tion of the res-  
olution.

H. Bangs took exceptions to the introduction of this resolution as an infraction of the rules of order governing the Conference, whereupon Benjamin Griffen moved that the order of business be suspended, in order to act on the foregoing resolution, and the motion prevailed; after which a call for the previous question, on motion of William Cooper, having been sustained, the vote was taken on the resolution, and it was adopted.

Order suspend-  
ed.  
Call for the pre-  
vious question  
sustained.

Resolution  
adopted.  
Memorial from

The chair presented a memorial from the Trustees of the



Garrett Biblical Institute, and it was referred to the Committee on Education. He also presented a memorial from Milo Chamberlain on Emancipation, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

May 17, 1856.  
Garrett Biblical Institute.  
Referred.  
Memorial on Emancipation from Milo Chamberlain.  
Referred.  
Call for memorial and petitions.

The conferences were called in order for the presentation of memorials, petitions, and appeals; and they were presented as follows, namely:

**NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE.**—Newel Culver presented a memorial, signed by himself and Charles N. Smith, in relation to more complete Quarterly Reports from the preacher in charge, concerning persons received into the Church or dismissed from it, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

N. HAMPSHIRE.  
Memorial relating to Quarterly Reports.  
Referred.

**NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.**—Benjamin Griffen presented a memorial from George Coles, on the subject of publishing a Condensed Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

NEW-YORK.  
Memorial from George Coles on Cheap Commentary.  
Referred.

**TROY CONFERENCE.**—H. L. Starks presented a memorial from members of the Church at Fort Plain, praying that the said appointment may be transferred from the Oneida Conference to the Troy Conference; and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

TROY.  
Memorial from Fort Plain on Boundaries.  
Referred.

**NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.**—John M. Reid presented a memorial from members of the Summerfield Chapel, Brooklyn, praying that the General Conference take no action on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

N. YORK EAST.  
Memorial on Slavery from Summerfield Chapel, Brooklyn.  
Referred.

Heman Bangs presented a memorial from members of Allen-street Church, New-York, requesting that no change should be made in the rule of Discipline on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorial on Slavery from Allen-street.  
Referred.

John B. Merwin presented five memorials, to wit: one from members of the Forsyth-street Church, New-York; one from members of the Carlton Avenue Church, Brooklyn; one from members of the Pacific-street Church, Brooklyn; one from members of the Dean-street Church, Brooklyn; and one from members of the Fleet-street Church, Brooklyn; all requesting that no change be made in the rule of Discipline on the subject of Slavery; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorials on Slavery from Forsyth-street, Carlton Avenue, Pacific-street, Dean-street, and Fleet-street.  
Referred.

**VERMONT CONFERENCE.**—A. Webster presented a memorial on Slavery from Danville, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

VERMONT.  
Memorial from Danville on Slavery.  
Referred.

May 17, 1856.

**BLACK RIVER.**  
Memorial from  
Syracuse on  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Rome Quar-  
terly Confer-  
ences on sundry  
alterations of  
the Discipline.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
West Winsted  
on Presiding  
Eldership and  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.

**EAST MAINE.**  
Memorial from  
Penobscot on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

**ERIE.**  
Memorial from  
Cleveland on  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.  
Memorial relat-  
ing to a change  
concerning  
Ministerial  
Supply.  
Referred.

**EAST GENESEE.**  
Memorial from  
Ovid and Shel-  
drake on the  
Presiding Eld-  
ership.  
Referred.  
Memorial on  
Extension of  
Time.  
Referred.

**MICHIGAN.**  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Duplain.  
Referred.

**ROCK RIVER.**  
Memorial from  
Council Hill on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.  
Memorial from  
Chicago on  
Church Exten-  
sion.  
Referred.

Session pro-  
longed.

**NORTH OHIO.**  
Appeal of Oliver  
Burgess made

**BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.**—J. Erwin presented a memorial from the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Syracuse, on the Extension of Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Isaac S. Bingham presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conferences of Rome District, requesting sundry alterations in the Discipline, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

H. Mattison presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership and Extension of Time from West Winsted, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

**EAST MAINE CONFERENCE.**—C. D. Pillsbury presented a memorial on Slavery from Penobscot Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

**ERIE CONFERENCE.**—G. B. Hawkins presented a memorial from the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Cleveland on Extension of Time, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. Also, on motion of G. B. Hawkins, so much of the memorial from Akron, now in the hands of the Committee on Itinerancy, as relates to a preacher's not serving more than two years in six, in the same station or circuit, be referred to the Committee on Revisals.

**EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.**—F. G. Hibbard presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from Ovid and Sheldrake, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy. He also presented a memorial from the same source, relating to an Extension of Time of Ministerial Service on circuits and stations, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

**MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.**—R. Sapp presented a memorial on Slavery from Du Plain Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

**ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.**—H. Crews presented a memorial from Council Hill on Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a memorial from ministers and members of the Church in Chicago in relation to "The Northwestern Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," and it was referred to a special committee of five.

On motion of W. B. Disbro, the time of the session was extended till we adjourn on motion.

**NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.**—W. L. Harris presented the Appeal of Oliver Burgess from the decision of the North

Ohio Conference, by which it convicted him of maladministration, and refused to pass his character, and on motion the Appeal was made the special order of the day for Wednesday morning next, immediately after reading the Journal.

W. B. Disbro presented a memorial from several Quarterly Conferences in Cleveland District, praying for the erection of a Western Reserve Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—William Young presented a memorial from Edward Conkling on the subject of Lay Representation, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

J. W. Fowble presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from members of the Church in Cincinnati, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

The memorial from Samuel Williams, relating to a cheap Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, presented by Bishop Simpson yesterday, was taken from the table, read, and referred to a special committee of five.

IOWA CONFERENCE.—H. W. Reed presented a memorial on Boundaries from Muscatine, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE.—Daniel Wise presented three memorials on Slavery, one from Cochesset Station, one from Osterville, and one from East Weymouth, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

William Livesey presented three memorials on Slavery, one from Wapping Station, one from Stoughton Station, and one from West Thompson Station, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

A. H. Triplett, seconded by John Morey, presented the following resolution, and it was referred to the Committee on Trials and Appeals.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the Committee on the Court of Trials and Appeals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of having some rule inserted to arrest manifest errors in application of law by Appellate Courts, in taking advantage by legal technicalities, or technical construction, in doing violence to the spirit and intention of rule in Discipline.

On motion of Thomas H. Pearne, seconded by S. W. Coggeshall, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to consider the expedience of striking out the latter clause of the an-

May 17, 1856,  
the order of the  
day for Wed-  
nesday morn-  
ing next.

Memorial from  
Cleveland Dis-  
trict, asking  
the erection of  
a Western Re-  
serve Confer-  
ence.

Referred.  
CINCINNATI.

Memorial from  
Edward Conk-  
ling on Lay Re-  
presentation.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Cincinnati on  
the Presiding  
Eldership.  
Referred.

Memorial of  
Samuel Wil-  
liams, relating  
to a cheap  
Commentary.  
Referred.

IOWA.  
Memorial from  
Muscatine on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

PROVIDENCE.  
Memorials on  
Slavery from  
Cochesset, Os-  
terville, and  
E. Weymouth.  
Referred.

Memorials on  
Slavery from  
Wapping,  
Stoughton, and  
West Thomp-  
son.  
Referred.

Resolution re-  
lating to errors  
in the applica-  
tion of law.  
Instructions to  
the Committee  
on Trials and  
Appeals.

Resolution in-  
structing the  
Committee on  
Revisals to in-  
quire whether

May 17, 1856.  
the restrictions  
relating to the  
return of a Pre-  
siding Elder  
and Preacher  
ought not to be  
struck out.

swer to question 3, section 2, page 43 of the Discipline; also of amending the Discipline by striking out the following clause, in answer 3, of question 3, section 1, chapter iv, page 41, namely: "Provided also that, with the exceptions above named, he shall not continue a preacher in the same appointment more than two years in six, nor in the same city more than four years in succession."

On motion of H. Bangs, seconded by E. E. Griswold, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Resolution for  
the Committee  
on Revisals re-  
lating to Super-  
annuated Mis-  
sionaries.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Missions be instructed to inquire whether, when any member of an Annual Conference is employed on a foreign mission, and shall lose his health while so employed, the Society should not make such provision for his support as the Board of Managers shall judge necessary.

On motion of Samuel Wakefield, seconded by John Mofatt, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Resolution re-  
lating to au-  
thority to order  
a new trial.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the expedience of amending the Discipline, answer 4 to question 1, sec. 4, chap. ix, Part I, page 100, by adding, "*which shall have authority to order a new trial.*"

On motion of H. Mattison, seconded by M. D'C. Crawford, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Secretary to fur-  
nish J. Holdich  
a copy of the  
resolution con-  
cerning a Gen-  
eral Delegate of  
the Bible So-  
ciety.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of this body be instructed to furnish to Rev. Joseph Holdich a copy of our action this morning in relation to the office of General Delegate of the American Bible Society.

Barnes M. Hall, seconded by E. B. Bradford, moved the following resolution, namely:

Motion to  
amend the  
tenth rule.

*Resolved*, That the *tenth* rule of the Conference be amended by substituting the word "*subject*" for the word "*question*."

Adjournment.

Pending the consideration of this resolution, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Norval Wilson.

May 19, 1856.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 19th, 1856.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Morris in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by I. M. Leihy, of the Wisconsin Conference.

The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

The British del-  
egates take  
leave of the  
Conference.

The chair having announced that the honored representatives of the British Wesleyan Conference were about to depart, business was suspended, and Rev. Dr. Hannah and Rev. Mr. Jobson in a brief manner tendered their thanks to the Confer-



ence for the Christian kindness and consideration with which they had been received, as Methodist preachers, both by the General Conference as a body, and by its members severally, and after most earnestly imploring the blessing of Almighty God upon the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, praying that he would preserve her in her unity and spirituality, they bade the Conference an affectionate farewell.

Bishop Waugh, for himself and his colleagues, and on behalf of the General Conference, responded to the British delegates, after which the Conference, by a rising vote and silent prayer, bade them adieu.

May 19, 1856.

The Conference  
bid the British  
delegates  
adieu.

Reports from standing committees being in order,

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report relating to matters at Hoboken, New-Jersey, and it was adopted in words following, to wit:

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred the memorial of the New-Jersey Conference concerning certain irregularities at Hoboken, on Paterson District, of that Conference, beg leave to recommend for adoption the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the irregularities complained of in Hoboken are within the jurisdiction of the authorities, to whom the persons are respectively amenable.

Report of the  
Committee on  
Itinerancy relating  
to matters at Hoboken,  
New-Jersey.  
Adopted.

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report on the subject of the Presiding Eldership.

Barnes M. Hall, seconded by H. Mattison, moved the following as a substitute for the report, namely:

Add the following to sec. 11, page 45, of Discipline:

"12. Whenever an Annual Conference shall request the Bishop to give the Presiding Elder of one or more of the districts regular pastoral work, it shall be his duty to comply with such request, and such Presiding Elders so appointed shall retain all the powers and discharge all the duties of other Presiding Elders, only they shall not be required to travel through their districts, except to hold the *first* and *fourth* Quarterly Conferences in each year, and to attend to all exigencies that may arise in their districts.

"The District Stewards shall estimate the necessary traveling expenses of such Presiding Elder, and also the compensation that shall be allowed him for his services as Presiding Elder, and shall assess the same upon the several charges, according to their respective ability.

Substitute for  
the report submitted.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, this substitute was laid on the table by a vote of 88 to 78.

Substitute  
on the table.

L. R. Thayer moved that the report lie on the table and be printed, but the motion did not prevail.

Motion to lay  
the report on  
the table.  
Lost.

May 19, 1856.  
Motion to postpone till to-morrow.  
Lost.

Asbury Lowrey moved to postpone the further consideration of the report till to-morrow. This motion was lost by a vote of 80 to 87.

Adjournment.

On motion, Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by William Hamilton.

May 20, 1856.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 20.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Janes in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by Arza Brown, of the Cincinnati Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Elias Bowen has leave of absence.

On motion of D. W. Bristol, Elias Bowen had leave of absence for the remainder of the session on account of ill health.

Order of the day suspended.

On motion of J. Floy, the order of the day was suspended, and the unfinished business of yesterday was taken up.

Consideration of the report on the Presiding Eldership resumed.

The report of the Committee on Itinerancy, which was laid on the table by adjournment yesterday, was taken up and read, and the discussion was resumed. Pending the consideration of the report, the previous question was moved, but was not sustained.

Call for the previous question not sustained.

Motion to allow the committee to correct inaccuracies in the report.

J. Z. Nichols moved that the Committee on Itinerancy have leave to correct certain inaccuracies found in the report.

Motion to recommit.

W. B. Disbro moved, as a substitute, that the report be recommitted.

Question of order.

During the discussion a question of order<sup>a</sup> was submitted, as to whether it is proper, on a motion to recommit, to discuss the merits of the question; whereupon the chair decided that it was not proper to enter into the *merits* of a question on a simple motion to recommit. No appeal was taken from this decision, yet on motion of J. S. Porter, it was resolved that the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of this Conference.

The merits of a question cannot be discussed on a motion to recommit.

No appeal taken, and the decision of the chair is the judgment of the Conference.

Motion to amend the substitute.

H. Bangs submitted the following amendment of the substitute, namely :

“That the Committee be instructed so to alter their report as to allow the Bishop to appoint the Presiding Elder to the pastoral office when he shall judge the work may demand it.”

Call for the previous question sustained.

Thomas H. Pearne moved that the vote be taken without further debate, and the motion was sustained, 157 voting in the affirmative.

The vote was then taken on the amendment submitted by H. Bangs, and it was lost, 58 voting for it, and 128 voting against it.

May 20, 1856.  
Motion to amend the substitute lost.

The motion to recommit was lost by a vote of 98 to 102, after which the motion to allow the committee to correct inaccuracies in their report prevailed.

Motion to recommit lost.  
Motion to correct inaccuracies prevails.

The committee then made a change in the clause, which as reported read as follows, namely :

"There was also referred to us five (5) remonstrances against all such changes, two from Annual Conferences, namely: Maine and New-York; and three (3) from Quarterly Conferences."

This clause was so modified as to read thus :

"There were also referred to us five (5) remonstrances from Quarterly Conferences against all such changes."

The ayes and nays having been ordered, the report, as modified by the committee, was adopted by the following vote :

Ayes and nays ordered.

*Ayes.*—Allen of Southern Illinois, Baird, Bangs, Barker, Barnes, Battelle, Beach, Berry, Bewley, Blain, Blake, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brouse, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Brown of Troy, Buck of Illinois, Burlingham, Burns, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Coats, Collins of Baltimore, Connell, Conrey, Cooper, Corrington, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crooks, Cunningham, Dana, Dimmitt, Drummond, Durbin, Felch, Finley, Flower, Floy, French, Goheen, Gorrie, Graham, Gregg, Griffen of New-York, Griffin of Troy, Griffith, Gurley, Hamilton, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Heath, Henderson, Hill of Indiana, Hill of Erie, Hirst, Hodgson, Holliday, Hopkins, Howard, Hull, Jamison, King of New-York, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Kinsley, Kisling, Kuhl, Lanahan, Lauck, Lemon, Lenhart, Lewis, Luccock, M'Combs, Martin of West Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Monroe, Morey, Morgan, Mulfinger, Nast, Nichols, Osbon, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Oregon, Pearne of Wyoming, Peck, Perry, Phillips, Pilcher of Michigan, Pilcher of North Ohio, Poe, Poisal, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Pratt, Quigley, Reddy, Reed of Iowa, Reese, Roberts, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sanderson, Sapp, Sargent, Slicer, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Stallard, Starr, Stanton, Swaim, Talbott, Thompson of Philadelphia,

*Ayes.*

May 20, 1856. Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Van Deusen, Waite, Wakefield, Walker, Wallace, Washburn, Watson, Wheeler, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wilson of Erie, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, and Young of Ohio.—145.

Nays. —Allen of Maine, Baker, Bannister, Bennett, Bingham, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Buck of East Genesee, Button, Carlton, Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coggeshall, Collins of Michigan, Cook, Coombe, Crews, Crowell, Culver, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Dustin, Erwin, Evans, Farrington, Fowble, Gillet, Griswold, Hall, Hibbard, Hitchcock, Hosmer, Hoyt, Hulburt, Kennaday, Kenney, Kidder, King of Vermont, Knox, Leihy, Livesey, Lowrey, Marcy, Mattison, Merwin, Moffatt, Parks of Troy, Phelps, Pillsbury, Porter of New-England, Randall, Raymond, Reid of New-York East, Requa, Rice of New-England, Rust, Simonds, Smith of New-Hampshire, Starks, Thayer, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Watts, Webster, Wise, Witherspoon, and Young of Cincinnati.—72.

M'Clintock not voting: Bowen and Rice of New-York absent.

The Report, as adopted by the foregoing vote, is in language following, to wit:

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report:

That they have had under consideration various memorials, proposing certain modifications of the rule of Discipline relating to Presiding Elders.

They have examined and duly considered these memorials. Twenty-nine (29) of them were printed, and six (6) were written, representing about four hundred (400) private and official members of the Church.

They ask *first* that the Presiding Elder be appointed to a station within the bounds of the district; from which station he shall receive his salary; his traveling expenses to be borne by the circuit or station, over whose Quarterly Conference he may be called to preside.

If this be not granted, then *second*, that each Annual Conference be left to regulate its own economy in regard to this office.

If this be not granted, then *third*, that New-York, Brooklyn, and other large cities, be excepted from the rule as it now stands.

If this be not granted, then *fourth*, that such modifications be made as shall best meet the ends proposed by the petitioners.

There were also referred to us five (5) remonstrances from Quarterly Conferences against all such changes.

Also resolutions from the Wisconsin Annual Conference, *first* praying that the office of Presiding Elder be elective; *second*, that the Bishop be requested not to appoint any brother to this office who may have served four consecutive years, until an interval of two years shall have elapsed.

After due deliberation, we unanimously propose for adoption the following preamble and resolution, namely:



*Whereas* it seems impracticable to modify the Presiding Eldership, as at present constituted, without impairing its usefulness and endangering the permanence of our itinerancy; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend no change at present in that feature of our economy; relying upon the wisdom of the episcopacy in selecting such incumbents for the office as shall give it the greatest possible efficiency.

May 20, 1856.

The Committee on Itinerancy reported further; and the Report was adopted as follows, namely:

The Committee on Itinerancy beg leave further to report: That they have had under consideration certain resolutions referred to them, and signed by H. Bangs and J. M. Reid: First, proposing to have the Presiding Elders elected by the several Annual Conferences; second, that the Presiding Elders be made a legal council to the Bishops in stationing the preachers; third, that they report a plan complete, to be inserted in the Discipline.

The committee recommend for adoption the following, namely:

*Resolved*, It is not expedient that the changes proposed in the afore-named resolutions shall be made.

Report on electing Presiding Elders, and on making them a legal council for the Bishops. Adopted.

The change proposed inexpedient.

W. Reddy having voted with the majority on the call of the ayes and nays, moved to reconsider that vote, so that the report might be amended by striking out the word "unanimously," found in the next line but one preceding the preamble, as it was claimed by some members of the committee that they did not agree to the report; but the motion to reconsider was, on motion of F. C. Holliday, laid on the table by a vote of 100 to 64.

Motion to reconsider the report, adopted by ayes and nays, to strike out the word "unanimously"

Motion to reconsider laid on the table.

William Livesey announced that Abel Stevens, a delegate from the Providence Conference, and in whose stead he had been serving, had arrived, and that he, therefore, wished to be excused from further attendance on General Conference.

Abel Stevens announced.

Whereupon, on motion of John A. Collins, Abel Stevens presented his credentials as a delegate, and was admitted to a seat in this body, and appointed to the Committee on Episcopacy and the Committee on Education, instead of William Livesey.

Abel Stevens admitted to a seat.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the regular order of business was suspended to hear a communication from L. S. Jacoby, Superintendent of Methodist Missions in Germany, most respectfully and earnestly requesting the General Conference to act with all convenient dispatch on the report of the Committee on Missions, in relation to the interests of Methodism in Germany.

Order of business suspended to receive a communication from L. S. Jacoby.

The report of the committee was, thereupon, taken up, and so much of it as relates to the organization of a Mission

Report of Committee on Missions relating to Germany.

May 20, 1856.

Annual Conference in Germany was adopted as follows, namely:

The Committee on Missions beg leave further to report,

German Mission Conference organized.

After examining the grounds of the request of our brethren in Germany for being organized into a Mission Annual Conference, we are satisfied that in order to train up properly the young men whom the Lord has raised up, and may raise up in Germany for the ministry, to regularly receive them on trial and into full connection, to elect candidates to deacon's and elder's orders, and in order that the superintendent might have the benefit of authorized advice from his co-laborers, our mission work ought to be organized as a Mission Annual Conference. We recommend this the more cheerfully, as it will not necessarily involve the expense of regular episcopal visitations. Therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That the German Missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Germany, and in that part of France and Switzerland where the German language is spoken, be organized as a Mission Annual Conference.

Bishop requested to visit Germany, if necessary.

2. *Resolved*, That one of our bishops be requested to hold the Mission Conference in Germany, when it is deemed necessary by the Episcopal Board.

Report relating to a Book Concern in Germany. Referred to Committee on the Book Concern.

The report of the Committee on Missions, in relation to a Book Concern in Germany, was read, and on motion of Thomas Carlton, was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern, with instructions to consider it at the first meeting hereafter, and to report upon it as early as practicable.

Report relating to Episcopal authority in Africa.

The report of the Committee on Missions, in relation to Episcopal authority in Liberia, was read; and C. W. Ruter moved that it be adopted.

Resolutions to be considered in their order.

George W. Walker moved that the resolutions be considered and acted upon *seriatim*, and the motion prevailed.

Motion to amend the first resolution.

The first resolution having been read, M. Dustin moved to amend the article, by adding "or Superintendent" after the word Bishop.

Substitute for the motion to amend offered.

S. D. Simonds proposed a substitute for the proposed amendment, to be inserted after the word "Superintendent," as follows: But may appoint a Missionary Superintendent, who shall exercise the office of Bishop in his particular mission field for eight years, or for such time as the General Conference may direct.

Substitute laid on the table.

On motion of William Hamilton, the substitute was laid on the table.

Call for the previous question not sustained.

M. Raymond moved that the question be taken without further debate, but the motion did not prevail.

Motion to adjourn lost.

A motion was made to adjourn, but the motion was lost.

On motion of W. H. Pearne, the time of the session was prolonged.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, the order of the day was laid on the table; and the conferences were called in order for petitions and memorials, and to receive resolutions.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.—Benjamin Griffen presented a remonstrance from Morrisania against being transferred from the New-York to the New-York East Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—John B. Merwin presented a memorial from members of the Church in Williamsburgh, requesting that no action be taken on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

MAINE.—D. B. Randall presented a memorial on Slavery from Gardiner Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—On motion of A. J. Phelps, so much of the Journal of Black River Conference as contains resolutions praying General Conference not to make such appropriations of missionary money as in any wise to promote Slavery, was referred to the Committee on Missions. He also presented the quadrennial report of the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [For Report, see *Appendix T.*]

ONEIDA CONFERENCE.—D. W. Bristol presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from Ithaca Station, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

Charles Starr presented two memorials: one from Smyrna and one from New-Berlin, both relating to Slavery, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—D. D. Buck presented a memorial on the Presiding Eldership from the First M. E. Church, Elmira, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—I. C. Kingsley presented a memorial on Slavery from West Carlton Circuit, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—E. Cooke presented a memorial on Slavery from Madison, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial from Madison, asking for some changes in the Discipline, and it

May 20, 1856.  
Session prolonged.  
Order of the day laid on the table to call for petitions and memorials, and receive resolutions.

NEW-YORK.  
Remonstrance from Morrisania against being transferred to the New-York East Conference.  
Referred.  
N. YORK EAST.  
Memorial from Williamsburgh against any action on Slavery.  
Referred.  
MAINE.  
Memorial on Slavery from Gardiner.  
Referred.  
BLACK RIVER.  
Journal on appropriations of missionary money.  
Referred.

Report of the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate.  
Referred.

ONEIDA.  
Memorial from Ithaca on the Presiding Eldership.  
Referred.

Memorials on Slavery from Smyrna and New-Berlin.  
Referred.

EAST GENESEE.  
Memorial from Elmira on the Presiding Eldership.  
Referred.

GENESEE.  
Memorial on Slavery from West Carlton.  
Referred.

WISCONSIN.  
Memorial on Slavery from Madison.  
Referred.

Memorial from Madison on changes of the Discipline.

May 20, 1856.

Referred.

Memorial from  
M. Himebaugh  
on Boundaries.

Referred.

ROCK RIVER.

Memorial from  
J. J. Hedstrom  
on a Paper in  
the Swedish  
language.

Referred.

NORTH OHIO.

Memorial from  
Delaware Dis-  
trict on Re-  
baptism.

Referred.

Memorial on  
Bethel cause  
from Maumee  
District.

Referred.

Memorial from  
Chesterville  
on Periodicals.

Referred.

Memorial from  
H. M. Shaffer  
on the claims  
of Superannu-  
ated Preachers.

Referred.

SOUTHERN ILLI-

NOIS.

Memorial from  
Mount Carmel  
on Book De-  
pository at St.  
Louis.

Referred.

MISSOURI.

Memorial from  
Selma on Book  
Depository,  
&c., at St.  
Louis.

Referred.

PHILADELPHIA.

Memorial on  
Lay Represent-  
ation.

Referred.

NEW-ENGLAND.

Memorial from  
Hedding  
Church, Bos-  
ton, on Slav-  
ery.

Referred.

PROVIDENCE.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Mystic Bridge.

Referred.

Communication  
from W. Sim-  
mons.

Referred.

Invitation to the  
privileges of  
the Reading  
Rooms of the  
Young Men's  
Christian As-  
sociation.

was referred to the Committee on Revisals; also a memorial on Boundaries from M. Himebaugh, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—R. Haney presented a memorial from J. J. Hedstrom in relation to a religious Paper in the Swedish language, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.—Henry E. Pilcher presented a memorial from the charges within Delaware District on the subject of Re-baptism; also a memorial on the Bethel cause from the Maumee District Ministerial Association, and they were both referred to the Committee on Revisals. He also presented a memorial from Chesterville Circuit on the subject of Periodicals, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

E. Thomson presented a memorial from H. M. Shaffer in relation to the claims of Superannuated Preachers, &c., and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—J. Van Cleve presented a memorial from preachers and members of Mount Carmel District, relating to a Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

MISSOURI CONFERENCE.—J. H. Hopkins presented a memorial from Selma Circuit, relating to a Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE.—J. P. Durbin presented a memorial from Philadelphia on the subject of Lay Representation, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—L. R. Thayer presented a memorial from Hedding Church, Boston, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE.—S. W. Coggeshall presented a memorial from Mystic Bridge on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Bishop Janes presented a communication from William Simmons, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

A communication was received from Noyes Spicer, Secretary of the Board of Managers of the Young Men's Christian Association, inviting the members of the Conference to the privileges of the *Reading Rooms* of the Association.



On motion of J. P. Durbin, the thanks of this body were tendered to the Board of Managers for their courtesies, and their invitation was accepted.

May 20, 1856.  
Invitation accepted.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, seconded by J. M. Jamison, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That hereafter during the present session of the General Conference, the Committee on Public Worship be instructed not to appoint more than twenty-five members of this Conference to preach out of this city, or its immediate vicinity.

Committee on Public Worship instructed.

J. S. Porter, seconded by L. H. King, presented the following, and it was referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy.

Page 41, Part I, chapter iv, answer 3 to question 3, 6 lines from the bottom. Nor shall he appoint any member of an Annual Conference to the pastoral charge of a circuit or station within the bounds of another conference, without constituting him a member of the Conference within which he has his field of labor.

Resolution providing that a preacher may not be stationed out of his own conference.

On motion of C. Kingsley, seconded by M. Hill, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be directed to consider the propriety of so amending the Discipline, Part I, chapter ix, section 4, question 1, answer 1, page 98, as to provide for a record of the minutes in case of the trial of our members.

Resolution relating to a record of the minutes of trials.

S. Gregg, seconded by G. B. Hawkins, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and hereby are, instructed to inquire into the propriety of altering the Discipline, chapter ix, section 4, page 99, answer 2, so as to make a refusal to support the benevolent institutions of the Church, an offense requiring the same disciplinary treatment as other defects in Christian character there described, and report to this Conference.

Resolution to make a refusal to support benevolent institutions a matter of complaint.

This resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

Israel Chamberlayne, seconded by J. M'Clintock, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That it shall not be in order to receive petitions and memorials after the session of Monday next.

Resolution relating to the reception of memorials.  
Laid on the table.

This resolution was laid on the table.

W. B. Disbro moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Boundaries be instructed to conform the lines of conferences to the line of states as far as practicable.

Resolutions to conform conference lines to state lines.  
Laid on the table.

This resolution was laid on the table.

On motion of W. H. Pearne, seconded by J. Kennaday, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

May 20, 1856.  
Memorials on  
Lay Delegation  
to be referred  
to a select com-  
mittee.

*Resolved*, That all petitions and memorials presented to this body, on the subject of Lay Representation in our Church, be referred from the Committee on Itinerancy to a special committee of five.

On motion of H. Mattison, seconded by Jonas Dodge, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Committee on  
Missions in-  
structed to re-  
port the appro-  
priations to  
Kentucky, Mis-  
souri, and Ar-  
kansas Confer-  
ences.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Missions be instructed to ascertain and report to this body at their earliest convenience the amount of missionary money appropriated to the Kentucky, Missouri, and Arkansas Conferences during the last four years.

Thomas H. Pearne, seconded by William Roberts, moved the following preamble and resolution, namely :

*Whereas*, the conferences on the Pacific Coast are too far removed from the Atlantic States, to allow of a personal representation in the General Mission Committee without involving great expense; and whereas, the domestic missionary work in these Conferences is constantly changing and requiring modification in its general arrangement, and needs special representation in the said missionary committee; therefore,

Resolution pro-  
viding that  
members of the  
General Mis-  
sion Com-  
mittee shall be  
appointed for  
California and  
Oregon, with  
the right to  
vote by proxy.  
Laid on the  
table.

*Resolved*, That in the appointment of the General Missionary Committee, the Bishops be directed to constitute corresponding members of the said committee for Oregon and California Conferences respectively, who shall have a corresponding relation to the said committee, and shall be allowed to vote by proxy in its annual meetings on all subjects relating to domestic missions on the Pacific coast.

This preamble and resolution were laid on the table to be printed.

The following resolution was moved by S. W. Coggeshall, seconded by Daniel Wise :

Resolution on  
appointing  
preachers edi-  
tors of Annual  
Conference pa-  
pers.  
Referred.

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be empowered to appoint preachers as editors of the papers under the patronage of an Annual Conference, as is now done in the case of the General Conference papers.

This resolution was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

On motion of H. Bangs, seconded by J. M. Reid, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Call for memo-  
rials and peti-  
tions to be sus-  
pended after  
Monday next.

*Resolved*, That the call for memorials and petitions be suspended after Monday next.

Committee on  
Church Exten-  
sion.

The chair announced the following committees, namely :

Committee on the memorial on Church Extension: Peter Cartwright, R. Haney, H. W. Reed, A. M. Osbon, and W. M'Combs.

Committee on  
"Cheap Com-  
mentary."

Committee on the memorial of Samuel Williams for a Cheap Commentary: J. Floy, F. G. Hibbard, E. Cooke, S. Allen, and D. W. Clark.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by H. Bangs.

May 21, 1856.

# WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 21, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Scott in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by T. J. Thompson, of the Philadelphia Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The regular order of business was taken up; and F. G. Hibbard, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business, submitted a report in relation to Baptized Children, and it was laid over under the rule, and ordered to be printed. He also reported further from the Committee on Revisals, recommending sundry changes in the Discipline, to wit: that New-Orleans be struck from the list of exceptions to the Limitation of the Term of Ministerial Service, on page 41 of the Discipline; that the meeting of District Stewards be annual; that the number of churches or houses of worship be included in the annual statistics of the Church; that the word *up*, in the phrase "the race set *up* before them," on page 29 of the Discipline, be struck out as a typographical error; and that Quarterly Conferences have power given them to order a new trial; this report lies on the table under the rule, and was ordered to be printed.

James Floy, Chairman of the Committee on the Tract Cause, presented as their report, in part, a revised Constitution of the Tract Society. It was read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Cyrus Brooks moved to suspend the order of business, in order to introduce the report of the Special Committee on the Education of Colored Children, but the motion did not prevail.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, presented a report in relation to the Sunday School Advocate, and it was adopted in words following, to wit:

The Committee have had under consideration a resolution of the Board of Managers of the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in relation to the Sunday School Advocate, and recommend that the Sunday School Advocate should be reduced to about half its present size, and be published at a cost not exceeding 25 cents per volume, of such quality as to secure its publication without loss to the Concern, and that it be strictly a child's paper.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern reported also, in relation to a Book Concern in Germany,

Report of Committee on Revisals relating to Baptized Children presented. Laid over under the rule. Report of Committee on Revisals relating to N. Orleans.

Annual meeting of District Stewards. Statistics of Churches. The word "*up*," on page 29 of the Discipline.

And a new trial. Lies on the table under the rule.

Committee on the Tract Cause report a revised Constitution.

Laid on the table.

Motion to suspend the order of business to introduce a report on the Education of Colored Youth. Lost.

Report relating to the Sunday School Advocate. Adopted.

Report relating to a Book Concern in Germany.

May 21, 1856.

and in relation to a German Sunday-school paper for the use of our German Sunday schools.

L. S. Jacoby addresses the Conference.

Pending the consideration of the report, L. S. Jacoby addressed the Conference in relation to the publishing interest in Germany.

Substitute for the report proposed.

John P. Durbin submitted a substitute for the report, when, on motion of Henry Slicer, so much of the report as relates to Church interests in Germany, together with the substitute offered by J. P. Durbin, was laid on the table.

Report and substitute laid on the table.

John M'Clintock submitted a resolution, which was adopted as follows, namely :

Missionary Society to publish Books, Newspapers, &c., for Germany.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church be, and they hereby are, requested to carry on, through our missionaries in Germany, such publications of books, newspapers, &c., as may be necessary in the prosecution of the missionary work in that country ; the extent of the expense to be incurred not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per year for the next ensuing four years.

Outlay not to exceed \$1,000 a year for the next four years.

So much of the report of the Committee on the Book Concern as relates to a Sunday-school paper to be printed in the German language, was adopted in words following, to wit :

German Sunday-school paper to be published at Cincinnati.

We further report : That the Book Agents at Cincinnati be instructed to publish a German Sunday-school paper for the use of our German Sunday Schools.

Report relating to Depository of Books, etc., in Oregon. Read and laid on the table.

The Committee on the Book Concern, through its Chairman, further reported, in relation to a Depository of Books, and the publication of a weekly paper in Oregon Territory. This report was read and laid on the table to be printed.

Committee on Lay Delegation.

The chair announced the following Committee on Lay Delegation ordered yesterday, namely :

D. W. Clark, E. Yocum, J. M. Trimble, J. S. Martin, and C. D. Pillsbury.

Report on Slavery presented.

M. Raymond, Chairman of the Committee on Slavery, presented a report, proposing changes in the Discipline on the subject of Slavery. It lies over under the rule ; and on motion it was ordered to be printed.

Lies over under the rule.

Notice given that a Minority Report will be presented.

John A. Collins gave notice that there would be a Minority Report from the Committee on Slavery.

Motion to extend the session.

A motion was made to extend the time of the session.

Substitute offered and laid on the table.

J. M. Reid moved as a substitute, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at three o'clock this afternoon ; but the substitute was laid on the table.



Z. Phillips renewed the motion to extend the time, but the motion was lost by a vote of 79 to 90.

May 21, 1856.  
Motion to extend the time.  
Lost.  
Motion to adjourn.  
Lost.

A motion was again made to adjourn, but the motion did not prevail.

William H. Brockway moved to extend the time to hear the report of the Committee on Education.

Motion to extend the time to hear a report.  
Laid on the table.

On motion of H. Bangs, the motion to extend the time was laid on the table by a vote of 93 to 62.

On motion Conference adjourned. Benediction by Abel Stevens.

Adjournment.

## THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1856.

May 22, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by C. W. Ruter, of the Southeastern Indiana Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

D. W. Bristol presented a communication from the trustees of the Odd Fellows' Hall, inviting the Conference, either as a body or individually, to visit their Hall at some time during the session; and on motion of S. Van Deusen, the invitation was accepted.

Invitation from trustees of Odd Fellows' Hall.

E. Thomson, Chairman of the Committee on Education, submitted a report, which was read, and, on motion of William Hamilton, it was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Invitation accepted.

Report of the Committee on Education relating to Biblical Institutes.  
Laid on the table.

The Committee on Public Worship reported, that as they were by resolution of the General Conference instructed not to appoint more than twenty-five members of this body to preach abroad on the Sabbath, and that as they could with that number by no means supply the demand made upon them, they should decline appointing any one unless otherwise instructed.

Committee on Public Worship declines appointing preachers to go out of the city on Sabbath.

D. W. Bristol moved to approve of the judgment of the committee.

Motion to approve the decision of the committee.  
Substitute to reconsider.

W. B. Disbro moved as a substitute, that the vote adopting the resolution restricting the Committee on Public Worship be reconsidered.

H. Bangs moved to lay the substitute on the table, but the motion did not prevail; after which the substitute was adopted.

Motion to lay substitute on the table.  
Lost.  
Substitute adopted.

On motion of Thomas H. Pearne, the resolution limiting

Motion instructing the com-

May 22, 1856.  
mittee is laid  
on the table.

the Committee on Public Worship, in the number of preachers they are at liberty to send abroad, was laid on the table.

Order of the day  
suspended.

On motion of Cyrus Brooks, the order of the day was suspended to receive a report from a special committee.

Report on the  
Education of  
Colored Youth.  
Adopted.

Cyrus Brooks, Chairman of the Committee on the Education of Colored Youth, presented a report, which was read, and, on motion of J. Dodge, was adopted, and ordered to be printed.

The report, as adopted, contained the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That, in the judgment of this General Conference, the religious education of the people of color in our land will tend most effectually and speedily, under God, to their elevation in this country, and to prepare the way for the restoration of the benighted millions of down-trodden Africa to all the blessings of civilization, science, and religion.

2. *Resolved*, That we look upon the proposed plan for the education of the colored youth of our land, as of God, and as promising great good to the people of color among us, and untold blessings to the land of their ancestors; and we do most earnestly recommend this noble work to the sympathy, the prayers, and the generous benefactions of all who desire the elevation of the entire family of man.

3. *Resolved*, That we bespeak for the agents of this enterprise a cordial reception on the part of all Christians and philanthropists, hoping that they may be successful, not only in awakening sympathy and enlisting prayers, but also in gathering funds to pay for the property purchased, and to afford a liberal endowment of the institution, so as to place it on an equal footing with the best institutions of learning in our country.

[For the entire report, see *Appendix U.*]

Order further  
suspended.

On motion the order of business was further suspended, and

Report on the  
Irish Cause.

E. Thomson, Chairman of the Special Committee on the Mission of the Irish Deputation, presented a report, together with a Reply to the Address of the Irish Conference.

Resolutions con-  
sidered in their  
order.

On motion of W. B. Disbro, the resolutions were considered in their order severally.

R. Scott of the  
Irish Deputa-  
tion addressed  
the Confer-  
ence.

While the report was under consideration, Rev. R. Scott, of the Irish Deputation, addressed the Conference.

The report was adopted as follows:

The Committee on the mission of Rev. Messrs. Arthur, Scott, and Cather, report that they have considered the subject referred to them, and submit the following resolutions, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That the General Conference sanctions the mission of the Delegates of the Irish Conference, and heartily commends them and their cause to the kind consideration of American Protestants, and particularly American Methodists; hoping that they will meet with favor and aid from all classes, but especially the wealthy among us.

2. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and hereby are, requested to

lay the matter before the Annual Conferences, and suggest to them to authorize collections in aid of the Irish cause during the current year.

May 22, 1856.

3. *Resolved*, That the Superintendents be authorized to employ such assistance as they may deem advisable, to aid the deputation in carrying out the object of their mission.

4. *Resolved*, That the Superintendents be authorized to send a few preachers, if any should volunteer, to Ireland to take part in the Irish Missionary work for two or three years, on condition that the Irish Conference request it, and offer to such preachers a suitable relation to the conference for the time.

5. *Resolved*, That the delegates from this Conference to the British Conference be directed to attend the Irish Conference also.

The reading of the Reply to the Address of the Irish Conference having been again called for, on motion of Thomas H. Pearne, the further reading was dispensed with, and the Reply was adopted.

[For Reply, see *Appendix G.*]

On motion of John A. Collins, the order of the day was further suspended to receive the report of the minority of the Committee on Slavery. The Minority Report was then presented and read by John A. Collins, chairman of the minority of the committee. After which George Peck moved that it be accepted, and printed in the Daily Advocate; and that both the Majority and Minority Reports from the Committee on Slavery be printed together in pamphlet form, and that 1000 copies be furnished for the use of this body.

H. Mattison moved to amend, by striking out "1000" and inserting "5000."

On motion of J. Z. Nichols, Conference ordered the question to be taken without further debate.

The amendment proposed by H. Mattison prevailed, and the motion as amended was carried.

H. Bangs moved to continue a suspension of the rule to take up the report of the Committee on Temporal Economy, laid over on Monday of last week for want of a quorum.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the motion to suspend the rule was laid on the table.

On motion, the appeal of Oliver Burgess, which had been made the order of the day for yesterday morning, was taken up.

It appearing that Oliver Burgess has withdrawn from the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is not therefore now a member, T. J. Thompson moved that the appeal be not entertained.

W. H. Brockway moved to strike out the word "*not*."

Call for the re-reading of the Address not sustained.

Address to the Irish Conference.

Order further suspended to receive the Report of the minority of the Committee on Slavery.

Minority Report read.

Both Reports to be printed in pamphlet form.

5000 copies ordered for the use of the Conference.

Motion to further suspend the order.

Laid on the table.

Appeal of Oliver Burgess taken up.

Motion not to entertain the appeal.

Proposed amendment.

May 22, 1856.

Appeal not entertained.

Journal of the North Ohio Conference, relating to Oliver Burgess.  
Referred.

Memorials and petitions, &c.

Memorial from Young Men's Christian Association of Baltimore.  
Referred.

Communication from Dr. Roberts in relation to "Bands."  
Referred.

Memorial from Cincinnati on Education of Colored Youth.  
Referred.

Conferences called.

N. YORK EAST. Memorial from Greene-street, New-York, and from Sands-street, Brooklyn, praying that no action be taken on the subject of Slavery.  
Referred.

BLACK RIVER. Memorial from Publishing Committee of the Northern Advocate for a Book Depository.  
Referred.

Motion to read the report of the Publishing Committee.  
Lost.

EAST GENESEE. Memorial on the Presiding Eldership, on Extension of Time, and on Lay Delegation.  
Referred.

On motion of T. H. Pearne, the motion to strike out was laid on the table, and the original motion prevailed.

On motion of John Kennaday, so much of the Journal of the last session of the North Ohio Conference as relates to the case of Oliver Burgess was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

On motion, the order of the day was suspended indefinitely, in order to call for memorials, petitions, appeals, and resolutions.

Bishop Waugh presented a memorial from the Young Men's Christian Association of Baltimore, requesting a donation of books to its library, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. He also presented a communication from Dr. Roberts, of Baltimore, against striking from the Discipline those parts which relate to "Bands," and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals. He also presented a memorial from Cincinnati, signed by M. M. Clark and five others as a Committee on the Education of Colored Youth, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

The conferences were called in order, and the following were presented :

NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE.—J. B. Merwin presented a memorial from members of Greene-street Church, New-York, asking that no action be taken on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery. He also presented a memorial from Sands-street, Brooklyn, on the same subject, and it was referred to the same committee.

BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE.—A. J. Phelps presented a memorial from the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate, asking that a Book Depository be established in connection with the paper, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

A. J. Phelps moved that the report of the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate, which was referred yesterday, be read ; but the motion was lost.

EAST GENESEE CONFERENCE.—J. Watts presented a memorial on the several subjects of appointing a Presiding Elder to pastoral work, of Extending the Time of Ministerial Service on Circuits and Stations, and on Lay Delegation, and so much as relates to the first two was referred to the Committee on Revisals, and so much as relates to the last was referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation. He also



presented a remonstrance against any change in the conference relations of the Churches on the west side of the river in the city of Rochester, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—I. C. Kingsley presented a memorial from B. Williams, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE.—W. H. Collins presented a memorial from David Whitcomb, in relation to Superannuated Preachers and Quarterly Conferences, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE.—H. Crews presented a memorial in relation to the purchase of real estate in Chicago for a Book Depository, &c., and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—M. Dustin presented a memorial from Greenville, asking that that circuit be transferred from the North Ohio to the Cincinnati Conference; and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. B. Finley presented a memorial on Slavery from Raper Chapel, Dayton. Referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Asbury Lowrey presented a memorial from Union City on the subject of Boundaries, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE.—J. B. Corrington presented a memorial from Williams, in relation to the Sale of Church Property, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE.—S. Y. Monroe presented a memorial from official members of Liberty-street Station, New-Brunswick, asking to be attached to what it is proposed to call the Newark Conference; and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

George F. Brown presented a memorial on the subject of a Mission Annual Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Colored Members.

William Young, seconded by William Cooper, presented the following resolution, and it was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of incorporating a provision in Ques. 1, Ans. 1, sec. 5, page 48 of the Discipline, providing for the reception of ministers from the Methodist Episcopal Church South, as is provided in case of ministers from the Wesleyan Connexion in Europe or Canada.

May 22, 1856.  
Remonstrance against a change in the conference relations of Churches in Rochester.  
Referred.  
GENESEE.  
Memorial from B. Williams.  
Referred.

MICHIGAN.  
Memorial from David Whitcomb on Superannuated Preachers.  
Referred.

ROCK RIVER.  
Memorial on Purchasing Real Estate in Chicago.  
Referred.

CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from Greenville on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial on Slavery, from Raper Chapel.  
Referred.  
Memorial from Union City on Boundaries.  
Referred.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.  
Memorial on the Sale of Church Property.  
Referred.

NEW-JERSEY.  
Memorial from New-Brunswick on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial relating to a Mission Annual Conference.  
Referred.

Resolution relating to the reception of preachers from the Church South.

May 22, 1856.

Report of Committee on the Smith Arnold Fund.

Zebulon Phillips, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the memorial of the New-York East Conference, in relation to the Smith Arnold Fund, presented a report, setting forth the history of the case, and expressing the conviction that the General Conference has no jurisdiction of the case, but recommending that the New-York Conference so apply the proceeds of the fund that they may in future inure to the benefit of N. W. Thomas and his wife, during their lives: provided, they shall remain members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Motion to lay the report on the table.  
Lost.

W. H. Pearne moved to lay the report on the table, but the motion was lost.

Report adopted.

The report was adopted.

[For full report, see *Appendix V.*]

NEW-YORK. Memorials on Boundaries from Yorkville and Harlem. Referred.

NEW-YORK CONFERENCE.—A. M. Osbon presented two memorials on Boundaries, one from Yorkville and one from Harlem, and they were referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

J. A. Brouse, seconded by William Young, moved the following resolution, and it was adopted:

Resolution relating to the business of Quarterly Conferences.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they hereby are, instructed to inquire into the expedience of so arranging the answers to question 4, "What shall be the regular business of the Quarterly Conference?" of section 4, of chapter 3, on page 38, as to secure greater uniformity in the proceedings of the Quarterly Conferences.

Appeal of John Demming made the order of the day for to-morrow morning.

C. Kingsley presented the appeal of John Demming, an expelled member of the Erie Conference, and on motion, it was made the order of the day for to-morrow morning, immediately after reading the Journal.

Communication from the Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society. Referred.

James Floy presented a communication from the Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society, concerning certain alterations in the Discipline adjusting it to the authorized form of the Tract Enterprise, and it was referred to the Committee on the Tract Cause.

Memorial on Statistics. Referred.

H. W. Reed presented a memorial signed by himself, J. G. Dimmitt, and L. W. Berry, on Statistics, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

H. Bangs, seconded by W. C. Hoyt, moved the following resolution, namely:

Resolution for a final adjournment.

*Resolved*, That this General Conference will adjourn finally on Thursday, the 29th instant.

Laid on the table.

The resolution was, on motion, laid on the table.

John Kennaday reported back the resolution of J. S. Porter, referred to the Committee on Episcopacy yesterday, and it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

S. Wakefield, seconded by W. Cox, moved the following resolution, and it was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the expedience of so amending the Discipline, Part III, chapter ii, section 3, page 177, 15 lines from the top, as to read, "Quarterly Conference of the Circuit or Station, which said Quarterly Conference shall dispose of said money," &c.

May 22, 1856.  
Resolution taken from Committee on Episcopacy. Referred.

Resolution to give Quarterly Conferences authority to dispose of certain moneys.

On motion of A. M. Osbon, seconded by William Reddy, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the committee ordered to nominate candidates for election as delegates to the Canada Wesleyan Conference, be instructed to nominate six candidates, from whom two delegates to the British Wesleyan Connection shall be elected.

Candidates to be nominated for delegates to the British Conference.

On motion of H. N. Barnes, seconded by J. H. Hull, the following preamble and resolution were adopted, namely :

*Whereas* much diversity exists among our people in forming Sunday-school Societies, and for want of a prescribed form especially in forming schools in new places, they are frequently at a loss how to proceed ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Sunday Schools be requested to take into consideration the propriety of reporting to this Conference for its adoption, a constitution for a Sunday-school Society, such as is herewith submitted.

Resolutions relating to a constitution for a Sunday-school society.

J. B. Corrington presented a memorial on the subject of a Book Depository and Church Paper at St. Louis, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

Memorial on a Book Depository, &c., at St. Louis. Referred.

A. J. Phelps, seconded by F. H. Stanton, moved a series of resolutions prescribing an order of debate to be observed during the discussion of the reports on Slavery.

Res. moved prescribing an order of debate on Slavery.

On motion of B. Griffen, the resolutions were laid on the table.

Resolutions laid on the table.

Conference adjourned.

Adjournment.

Benediction by Thomas H. Pearne.

## FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1856.

May 23, 1856.

Conference met this morning ; Bishop Baker in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by William Roberts, of Oregon Conference.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

May 23, 1856.  
Appeal of John  
Demming tak-  
en up.

On motion of Benjamin Griffen, the appeal of John Demming was taken up; and it appearing that said John Demming was not now a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but that he is a minister at present of another Church, and, therefore, in no way amenable to this body, on motion of T. J. Quigley, Conference resolved not to entertain the appeal.

Appeal not en-  
tertained.

Report on  
Slavery taken  
up.

On motion of John A. Collins, the report of the majority of the Committee on Slavery was taken up.

Motion to  
adopt the sec-  
ond resolu-  
tion.

Minor Raymond moved the adoption of the second resolution of the report.

Motion to sus-  
pend the fifteen  
minutes' rule.

James H. Perry moved that, during the discussion on the question of Slavery, the rule limiting speakers in debate to fifteen minutes be suspended, and on further motion of J. H. Perry, Conference ordered the vote on suspending the rule to be taken by yeas and nays.

Vote to be tak-  
en by yeas and  
nays.

Question to be  
taken without  
further debate.

On motion of Heman Bangs, Conference resolved to take the question without further debate, 175 voting in favor of the motion.

Roll called.

The roll of Conference was then called, and the vote was as follows:

*Ayes.*

*Ayes.*—Baird, Bangs, Barker, Battelle, Berry, Bewley, Blain, Blake, Bristol, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of Troy, Buck of Illinois, Burlingham, Carlton, Carpenter, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Coggeshall, Collins of Baltimore, Collins of Michigan, Connell, Cooper of Philadelphia, Corrington, Crews, Crooks, Cunningham, Dodge, Drummond, Durbin, Finley, Goheen, Graham, Gregg, Griffen of New-York, Griffin of Troy, Griffith, Gurvey, Hamilton, Haney, Harris, Hibbard, Hill of Erie, Hirst, Hitchcock, Holliday, Hopkins, Hulburd, Hull, Jamison, Kennaday, Kenney, King of New-York, Kingsley of Erie, Kinsley, Lanahan, Lanck, Leihy, Lenhart, Lewis, Lowrey, M'Clintock, M'Combs, Martin of Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Merwin, Monroe, Morey, Morgan, Mulfinger, Pearne of Oregon, Pearne of Wyoming, Peck, Perry, Phillips, Pilcher of Michigan, Pilcher of North Ohio, Poisal, Power, Quigley, Reed of Iowa, Reid of New-York East, Reese, Rice of New-York, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sapp, Sargent, Slicer, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Starks, Stevens, Swaim, Talbott, Thompson of Philadelphia, Thomson of North Ohio, Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Walker,



Wallace, Watson, Wilson of Baltimore, Wilson of Erie, May 23, 1856.  
Wood, Yocum, Young of North Ohio, Young of Cincinnati.  
—114.

*Nays.*—Allen of Maine, Allyn of South Illinois, Baker, Bannister, Barns, Beach, Bennett, Bingham, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Bradford, Brockway, Brouse, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of East Genesee, Burns, Button, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Conrey, Cook, Coombe, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crowell, Culver, Dana, Dennis, Dimmitt, Disbro, Dustin, Erwin, Evans, Farrington, Felch, Flower, Floy, Fowble, French, Gillet, Gorrie, Griswold, Hall, Hawkins, Heath, Henderson, Hill of Indiana, Hodgson, Hosmer, Howard, Hoyt, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Genesee, Kisling, Knox, Kuhl, Lemon, Luccock, Marcy, Mattison, Moffatt, Nast, Osbon, Parks of Troy, Parks of Oneida, Phelps, Pillsbury, Poe, Porter of New-England, Porter of New-Jersey, Pratt, Randall, Raymond, Reddy, Requa, Rice of New-England, Roberts, Rust, Sanderson, Simonds, Smith of New-Hampshire, Starr, Stanton, Stallard, Thayer, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thurston, Van Deusen, Waite, Wakefield, Washburn, Watts, Webster, Wheeler, Wilmer, Wise, Witherspoon, Worthington.—103.

*Absentees.*—Bowen, Dempster, Nichols.—3.

W. H. Brockway moved that during the discussion of the subject of Slavery, no speaker be allowed more than thirty minutes.

Motion to limit speakers to thirty minutes.

John S. Porter moved that the question be taken without debate, and the motion was sustained; after which the motion limiting speakers to thirty minutes was carried.

Call for the previous question sustained. Motion carried.

At the close of the remarks of H. Mattison, he having spoken thirty minutes, H. Slicer moved that he have leave to proceed; but the motion granting leave to proceed was, on motion of William Reddy, laid on the table.

Motion to allow H. Mattison to proceed. Laid on the table.

William Graham moved, that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at half past two o'clock this afternoon.

Motion for an Afternoon Session.

A motion was made by W. Cooper to lay the motion to meet this afternoon on the table; but the motion to lay on the table was lost by a vote of 91 to 105, and the original motion prevailed.

Motion to lay on the table. Lost. Original motion carried.

On motion of William Cooper, Conference adjourned. Benediction by W. H. Brockway.

Adjournment.

May 28, 1856.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Ames in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Davis W. Clark, of the New-York Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

J. B. Finley has leave of absence till Monday next.

Motion relating to spectators. Lost.

Consideration of the Report on Slavery resumed.

Adjournment.

James B. Finley asked and obtained leave of absence till Monday next, in consequence of the ill health of his family.

James B. Finley, seconded by E. H. Pilcher, moved that spectators be requested to retire without the bar of the Conference; but the motion did not prevail.

On motion of John A. Collins, the consideration of the report on Slavery was resumed, and the discussion continued till past five o'clock, when, on motion of W. C. Hoyt, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Bishop Scott.

May 24, 1856.

## SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by E. G. Wood, of the Southeastern Indiana Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

Conference to meet Monday afternoon.

On motion of John A. Collins, the regular order of business was suspended; and on further motion of John A. Collins, it was resolved, that when Conference adjourn, it adjourn to meet on Monday at two o'clock in the afternoon.

D. A. Whedon takes his seat.

D. W. Bristol presented the credentials of D. A. Whedon, a reserve delegate from the Oneida Conference, who takes the place of Elias Bowen, excused on account of ill health, and he was admitted to a seat as a member of the General Conference.

Motion to resume the discussion on Slavery.

A. J. Phelps moved that the unfinished business of yesterday be taken up.

Substitute proposed and laid on the table.

A. M. Osbon moved as a substitute, that it be postponed till Tuesday morning next.

Motion to resume laid on the table.

On motion of M. Dustin, the substitute was laid on the table, and on motion of W. A. Wilmer, the motion to resume the business of yesterday was also laid on the table.

D. B. Randall, seconded by S. Allen, moved the following resolutions, and they were adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

May 24, 1856.

1. *Resolved*, That our hearty thanks are due to Rev. J. H. Noble, pastor of Wesley Chapel, for his kindness in taking charge of the letters and papers addressed to and from members of this Conference, and in delivering them with so much promptness and care.

Resolutions of thanks to Rev. J. H. Noble.

2. *Resolved*, That it will give us great pleasure to present to Rev. J. H. Noble a substantial token of our appreciation of this service.

3. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to carry into effect the object of these resolutions.

Cyrus Brooks presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conference of Fletcher Circuit, Cincinnati Conference, asking that the Orange Chapel Society, now attached to Port Jefferson Circuit, North Ohio Conference, be attached to the said Fletcher Circuit; and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

Memorial from Fletcher Circuit on Boundaries. Referred.

John Kennaday, Chairman of the Committee on the Episcopacy, presented a report, and it was adopted as follows, namely :

The Committee on the Episcopacy, to whom was referred the petition of Reeder Smith, in relation to the action of the Wisconsin Conference upon his appeal as a Local Preacher, respectfully report, That they have duly examined the petition, and find nothing therein calling for the action of said committee. They therefore return the petition to the Conference, and ask that they may be excused from its further consideration.

Report of the Committee on Episcopacy, concerning Reeder Smith. Adopted.

On motion of W. H. Collins, the memorial of Reeder Smith was referred to a select committee of five.

Memorial of Reeder Smith referred to a select committee.

H. E. Pilcher, seconded by E. H. Pilcher, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Discipline, Part I, chapter iv, sec. 8, lines 10 and 11 from the bottom, on page 52, be amended by striking out the words "on circuits and stations."

Resolution relating to the "Regular Work"

This resolution lies on the table under the rule.

Lies over under the rule. Memorial from J. M. Snow.

J. H. Perry presented a memorial from J. M. Snow, praying the Conference to reconsider its action, by which his case was remanded to the Wisconsin Conference for a new trial, and J. H. Perry moved that the memorial be referred to a select committee of three to consider and report thereon.

Motion to refer the memorial to a select committee.

On motion of I. M. Leihy, both the motion to refer and the memorial itself were laid on the table by a vote of 85 to 84.

Motion and memorial laid on the table.

May 24, 1856.  
Report of the  
Committee on  
the Book Con-  
cern relating to  
a Book Deposi-  
tory at St.  
Louis, and  
concerning edi-  
tors, &c.  
Laid on the  
table.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, submitted a report in relation to a Paper and Book Depository at St. Louis, and in relation to the residences of editors, their duties, and accountability, and they were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern reported further as follows :

Report of the  
Committee on  
the Book Con-  
cern relating to  
sales to local  
preachers.

The committee have had under consideration the memorial of Sheldon Clark, praying that local preachers among us have the same discount allowed them by our Book Agents on books and periodicals, as are allowed to traveling preachers. The committee propose the following :

Local preachers  
to have the  
same discount  
as traveling  
preachers.

*Resolved*, That our Book Agents be authorized to furnish our local preachers with books and periodicals for their own use at the same discount allowed traveling preachers, when the money accompanies the order.

Report adopted.

On motion of George Peck the report was adopted.

The Committee on the Book Concern, through its chairman, further reported as follows, namely :

Report of Com-  
mittee on the  
Book Concern  
relating to cer-  
tain papers  
from Rev.  
George Coles.

The committee have had under consideration certain papers from Rev. George Coles, and find that they contain proposals for publishing a "A cheap Commentary on the Bible," "Questions on the Book of Proverbs," and a "Revised Concordance." They recommend that the proposal for the publication of a cheap commentary be referred to the committee on that subject ordered by the General Conference, and that Brother Coles be recommended to submit the other papers referred to, to the editors at New-York.

Report adopted.

This report was, on motion, adopted.

Motion to take  
up the report  
of the Commit-  
tee on Tempo-  
ral Economy.

E. E. Griswold moved to take up the report from the Committee on Temporal Economy in relation to leaving the entire amount of the allowance of preachers on circuits and stations to the Estimating Committee and the Quarterly Conference ; but the motion to take up did not prevail.

Motion lost.

Report concern-  
ing a course of  
study for can-  
didates for the  
itinerant min-  
istry.

N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on the Itinerancy, submitted two reports: one relating to a course of study for candidates for admission on trial into the traveling connection ; the other recommending such an alteration of the Discipline as to empower the Bishops, in a case where one or more Annual Conferences may establish and sustain a religious paper, to appoint an editor for said paper from among the traveling preachers from year to year ; and both reports were laid on the table under the rule.

Report on ap-  
pointing editors  
to Conference  
papers.

Lies over under  
the rule.

Report of Com-  
mittee on  
Trials and Ap-  
peals.

Lies over under  
the rule.

James Porter, Chairman of the Committee on Trials and Appeals, presented a report on that subject, which was read, and lies over under the rule.



On motion of John A. Collins, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

May 24, 1856.

*Resolved*, That so much of the chapter on Slavery as is contained in answers 4 and 5, in said chapter, be referred to the Committee on Revisals, with a view that they be detached therefrom, and placed in a more appropriate relation in the Discipline.

Resolution relating to the chapter on Slavery.

On motion of W. Hamilton, the report of the Committee on Missions was taken up, and so much of the report as relates to Missionary Bishops and to a Bishop for Africa, was read.

Report of Committee on Missions taken up.

H. Bangs, seconded by J. S. Porter, moved the following as a substitute for so much of the report as had been read, namely :

*Whereas*, The Liberia Annual Conference has felt the necessity of episcopal service beyond the ability of our bishops residing in this country to render; and,

Substitute for the Report.

*Whereas*, it is the desire of this General Conference to promote the work of God in that as well as other countries, in such way and by such means as may appear to be the best adapted to the circumstances of the people; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Liberia Annual Conference be at liberty to form themselves into a separate Church establishment.

*Resolved*, That we do hereby recommend to our brethren in Africa to adopt the form of government of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, with only such modifications as the circumstances may require.

*Resolved*, That should the Liberia Annual Conference avail themselves of the foregoing provisions, and elect an elder to the superintendence of the Church there, desiring his ordination by our Bishops, we do hereby authorize and request the Bishops, or any of them, to whom such elect may be presented, to ordain him.

*Resolved*, That in case the Church in Africa become separated from us, it does not follow that we will cease to cherish and assist them in carrying on the work of God in that country, but, on the contrary, we do hereby recommend to the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in New-York, to continue their fostering care, and make such appropriations for the work there, from time to time, as they may judge to be necessary, provided the doctrines and moral discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church be faithfully preserved among them.

Norval Wilson, seconded by Isaac Parks, moved the indefinite postponement of both the report and the substitute, and on a count vote, 72 voted to postpone and 68 against it; but as the whole number voting did not constitute a quorum of the Conference, the chair pronounced that the motion did not prevail.

Motion to postpone indefinitely.

Benjamin Griffen moved that Conference do now adjourn; but the motion was lost.

A quorum does not vote. Motion lost.

On motion of Henry Slicer, the roll of Conference was called, and 163 members answered to their names; and as 147 members constitute a quorum of this body, it was found

Motion to adjourn. Lost.

Call of Conference.

May 24, 1856. that there was a quorum present, whereupon the vote was again taken on the motion to indefinitely postpone the report and substitute as aforesaid, and 72 voted for indefinite postponement, and 66 against it, and the chair as before, and for the same reason, pronounced that the motion did not prevail.

Quorum present  
Vote on motion  
to postpone  
again taken.

Motion lost—  
a quorum not  
voting.

Motion to ad-  
journ.  
Lost.

Motion to ad-  
journ.  
Lost.

Motion to call  
the Conference.  
Lost.

Motion to ad-  
journ.

Call for the yeas  
and nays not  
sustained.

Motion to ad-  
journ.  
Lost.

Adjournment.

Benjamin Griffen again moved that Conference do now adjourn; but the motion was lost by a vote of 42 to 100.

The motion to adjourn was immediately renewed, and was again lost.

John M'Clintock moved that the roll of members be called, to ascertain if there is a quorum present; but the motion did not prevail.

The motion to adjourn was renewed, and a call of the yeas and nays demanded; but as twenty-five did not vote in favor of the call, it was not sustained; and on vote, the motion to adjourn was lost.

The motion to adjourn was again renewed, and carried by a vote of 88 to 43.

Conference closed at a quarter past eleven o'clock, with singing the doxology, and the benediction by A. M. Osbon.

## MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 26, 1856.

May 26, 1856. Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Morris in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Richard Haney, of the Rock River Conference.

The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

Ordersuspended and Report on Slavery taken up. On motion of A. J. Phelps, the regular order of business was suspended by a vote of 110 to 48; and on further motion of A. J. Phelps, the Report of the majority of the Committee on Slavery was taken up, and the discussion was resumed.

Motion to extend the time. Pending the discussion, E. Thomson having spoken 30 minutes, John A. Collins moved that he have liberty to proceed; but the motion was lost by a vote of 73 to 85.

Motion to change from 30 to 60 minutes. John M'Clintock moved to suspend the rule limiting speakers in debate to 30 minutes, and to extend the time to one hour.

Motion to lay on the table. W. H. Brockway moved to lay the motion on the table, but the motion was lost; after which the motion of J. M'Clintock prevailed.

Original motion adopted.

On motion of J. A. Collins, E. Thomson was requested to resume his argument under the new rule. He then concluded his remarks, at the close of which, J. A. Collins having obtained the floor, E. Thomson moved that Conference do now adjourn; but the motion was lost.

May 26, 1856.  
E. Thomson requested to resume his argument.

Motion to adjourn.  
Lost.

The discussion having proceeded for a short time, the motion to adjourn was renewed and carried.

Adjournment.

Benediction by J. P. Durbin.

## TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 27, 1856.

May 27, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Janes in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by J. L. Thompson, of the Northwestern Indiana Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

Bishop Baker announced the following committees ordered by the Conference, namely:

Committee on the memorial of Reeder Smith: H. W. Reed, P. S. Bennett, W. H. Collins, H. Summers, and A. Brown.

Committee on Memorial of Reeder Smith.

Committee on the resolutions offered by D. B. Randall, namely: D. B. Randall, J. M. Stallard, and Hiram Buck.

Committee on resolutions offered by D. B. Randall.

Heman Bangs moved to suspend the order of the day, to introduce a resolution in relation to a final adjournment of the Conference.

Order of the day suspended.

A motion was made to amend, by providing for the introduction of resolutions in relation to other matters, as well as the one indicated in the motion to suspend, and the amendment prevailed, and the motion as amended was adopted.

H. Bangs, seconded by B. Griffen, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That this Conference come to a final adjournment on Saturday the 31st instant.

Resolution for a final Adjournment.

This resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

C. S. Coats, seconded by William Reddy, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That the election of editors of the periodicals under the supervision of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and of the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, be the order of the day for Thursday at nine o'clock A. M.

Resolution fixing the time of the elections.

May 27, 1856.  
Laid on the table.

On motion of I. N. Felch, the resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 104 to 42.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, seconded by S. D. Simonds, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Resolution instructing the Committee on Public Worship.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Public Worship be, and they are hereby instructed, hereafter, during the present session of this General Conference, not to appoint members of this body to preach out of this city, or its immediate vicinity.

W. H. Brockway, seconded by R. Sapp, moved the following resolution, namely :

Resolution relating to the Quorum of the General Conference.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they are hereby, instructed to examine and report as to the propriety of amending the Discipline in chap. iii, sec. 2, ans. 3, on page 32, last line, by striking out "two thirds," and inserting "a majority."

Laid on the table.

On motion of J. Brooks, the resolution was laid on the table.

G. M. Boyd, seconded by H. Crews, moved the following resolution, namely :

Resolution to give the Preacher in charge power to appeal in case of the trial of a member.  
Lost.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering the Discipline, chap. ix, sec. 4, ans. 4, as to read : "*nevertheless*, if in any of the above-mentioned cases, the minister, or preacher in charge, differ in judgment from the majority of the society or the select number, concerning the innocence or guilt of the accused person, in such case the minister, or preacher in charge, may appeal the case to the ensuing Quarterly Conference."

This resolution was lost.

Resolution relating to the solemnization of marriage by unordained traveling preachers.  
Laid on the table.

A. J. Dana, seconded by William Reddy, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and hereby are, instructed to inquire and report whether it is not expedient and desirable to authorize unordained traveling preachers, who may have charge of circuits and stations, to solemnize matrimony.

This resolution was laid on the table.

On motion of John Luccock, seconded by H. Kinsley, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Resolution relating to receiving persons into full connection.

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to inquire into the expedience of so altering our Discipline, Part I, chapter ii, section 2, answer 1, as to make it read, "after having met *at least* six months in class," instead of reading, "with whom they have met at least six months in class."

S. W. Coggeshall, seconded by D. Wise, moved the following preamble and resolution, namely :

Preamble and resolution relating to the subject of Divorce.

*Whereas*, the law of our Lord on the subject of Divorce, while recognized by most Christian Churches, and also upheld by most



Christian States, has been abrogated by many of these United States, in consequence of which there are persons in good and regular standing in our Churches, who, according to this law, are guilty of transgression of the Seventh Commandment, and we now have no Disciplinary rule to prohibit it; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be instructed to frame a section for our book of Discipline, in which the law contained in Matthew v, 31, 32, shall be embodied, and in which it shall be distinctly set forth that persons guilty of its violation cannot be allowed membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The preamble and resolution were, on motion of A. Sanderson, laid on the table.

S. Van Deusen, seconded by A. M. Osbon, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at half past two o'clock, for the purpose of taking up and acting upon reports of committees now on the table.

W. B. Disbro moved to amend the resolution, by striking out so much as prescribes the business of Conference for the afternoon session.

A motion was made to lay the amendment on the table, but the motion was lost, the amendment prevailed, and the resolution as amended was carried.

A. Lowrey, seconded by I. Parks, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be, and hereby are, instructed so to alter the Discipline as to require local preachers to pass an examination before the preacher in charge, or the Presiding Elder within whose jurisdiction he may reside, on the prescribed course of study, as a condition of ordination.

This resolution was, on motion of W. Cooper, laid on the table.

John Poisal, seconded by Norval Wilson, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved* by the General Conference, &c., That the Discipline be so altered, that when a traveling preacher is employed as an agent of a State Bible Society, auxiliary to the American Bible Society, the Bishop may have power to make such appointment as is now provided for in the employment of agents for state colonization societies, chaplains to state prisons, and in the army and navy, &c.

This resolution lies on the table under the rule.

Asbury Lowrey moved to take up the report on Slavery, which was under consideration at the time of adjournment yesterday; but the motion was lost.

On motion of James B. Finley, seconded by James Porter, the Hon. Judge M'Lean and his Associates were invited to a seat within the bar of the Conference.

M. Dustin presented a memorial from Edgar Conkling on "Lay Delegation," and in relation to the appointment of

May 27, 1856.

Laid on the table.

Resolution to meet this afternoon for a specific purpose.

Amendment proposed.

Motion to lay the amendment on the table.

Lost. Amendment prevailed, and motion as amended carried.

Local preachers to be examined on the course of study

Laid on the table.

Resolution relating to the appointment of Preachers to the agency of State Bible Societies.

Lies over under the rule.

Motion to take up the Report on Slavery. Lost.

Judge M'Lean and his associates invited to seats within the bar.

Memorial from E. Conkling on Lay Delegation, &c.

May 27, 1856.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Abingdon.

Referred.  
Memorials from  
Halsey-street  
and Broad-  
street, praying  
that no action  
be taken on the  
subject of  
Slavery.

Referred.  
Memorials from  
Central Church  
and Union-  
street, praying  
that no action  
be taken on  
Slavery.

Referred.  
Memorial from  
Seventh-street,  
praying that no  
action be taken  
on Slavery.

Referred.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Russel-street.

Referred.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Lamoille.

Referred.  
Memorials from  
New-York  
Mills on  
Slavery, Extension  
of Time,  
and Lay Dele-  
gation.

Referred.  
Invitation to  
hold the next  
session in  
Philadelphia.  
Laid on the  
table.

Memorial relat-  
ing to Sunday-  
School Super-  
intendents.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
West Liberty  
on Boundaries.  
Referred.

ministers to secular positions; and it was referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation.

Richard Haney presented a memorial on Slavery from Abingdon, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

S. Y. Monroe presented two memorials, one from Halsey-street Church, and one from Broad-street Church, Newark, both asking that no change be made in the Discipline on the subject of Slavery, and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

J. S. Porter presented two memorials, one from Central Church, and one from Union-street Church, Newark, both asking that no action be taken by the General Conference on the subject of Slavery; and they were referred to the Committee on Slavery.

H. Bangs presented a memorial from members of Seventh-street Church, New-York, asking that no action be taken on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

James Porter presented a memorial on Slavery from North Russel-street, Boston, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Luke Hitchcock presented a memorial on Slavery from Lamoille, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Isaac Parks presented three memorials from the Quarterly Conference of New-York Mills Station, one on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery; one on the Extension of Time of Ministerial Service, and it was referred to the Committee on Itinerancy; and one on the subject of "Lay Delegation," and it was referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation.

John P. Durbin presented an invitation from Philadelphia to the General Conference to hold its next session in that city. It was laid on the table till the subject to which it relates shall come up; and it was ordered to be printed.

James B. Finley presented a memorial from the Quarterly Meeting Conference of Lebanon Station, praying that male superintendents of our Sunday Schools be made members of the Quarterly Meeting Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Sunday Schools.

George M. Boyd presented a memorial from members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in West Liberty Station, North Ohio Conference, in relation to Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries.

R. Thompson presented a memorial from a committee on behalf of the owners of the Indiana Debt and Bond, asking a dividend of a full set of the books published by the Western Book Concern, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern.

May 17, 1858.  
Western Book Concern  
asked  
dividend  
of books

W. Hamilton presented an invitation from the Baltimore City Mission to the General Conference to hold the next session in that station. It was laid on the table till the matter is taken up, and it was ordered to be printed.

Invitation to  
the General Conference  
to hold the next  
session in Baltimore  
City Mission

J. K. Gales presented a memorial in slavery from Reading, Conn., and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Memorial on  
slavery from  
Reading, Conn.

George W. Walker presented a memorial from John W. Kewy, concerning the Conference's views of the appointment of Preachers, and it was referred to the Committee on Revivals.

Memorial from  
John W. Kewy  
concerning the  
Conference's views  
of the appointment  
of Preachers

J. W. Bond presented the Quarterly Report of the Publishing Commission of the Pittsburgh Christian Mission, and it was referred to the Committee on the Book Concern. [See Appendix X.]

Report of the  
Publishing Commission  
of the Pittsburgh  
Christian Mission

Henry Jones presented the Quarterly Report of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Fund. The report was read, and, on motion of James E. Finley, it was referred to a select committee of five. [For report, see Appendix Y.]

Report of the  
Board of Trustees  
of the Christian Fund

On motion of H. Crow, seconded by L. Hinchcock, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Resolved, That the special committee just referred to the action of the Conference on the subject of sending the Board of the Christian Fund on home of our States where the legal form of business is not yet made.

Resolution referring  
the subject of  
sending the Board of  
the Christian Fund  
on home of our States  
where the legal form  
of business is not yet  
made

W. H. Brown, seconded by M. Thomas, moved the following resolution, namely:

Resolved, That the Committee on Revivals be authorized to make a change in the Discipline, so that the appointment of preachers to stations in the South be made in the East and West, and that the same be subject to the same rules as preachers in the regular work.

Resolution authorizing  
the Committee on  
Revivals to make a  
change in the  
Discipline

This resolution was not adopted.

On motion of William M. Quinn, the report of the majority of the Committee on Slavery was taken up.

Res.  
Majority on  
slavery taken  
up

John A. Collins having the floor, resumed his argument,

- May 27, 1856. and after having spoken out the hour allotted, he was, on motion of Henry Slicer, permitted to proceed.
- Session prolonged. At 3 minutes before 12 o'clock, John Dempster having the floor, on motion, the session was prolonged till he should complete his argument.
- Adjournment. At seventeen minutes past 12 o'clock, Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and the benediction by Uriah Heath.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Scott in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by W. A. Wilmer, of the New-Jersey Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Report on Slavery taken up. On motion, the subject under consideration at the time of adjournment was taken up and the discussion was resumed.

Substitute for the report on Slavery. Jacob Young, seconded by E. Thomson, moved the following resolutions as a substitute for the second resolution of the report, and the whole matter comprised under it, namely :

1. *Resolved*, That no man has a moral right to hold a fellow-being as property.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of all our members and probationers who may sustain the legal relation of slaveholder, to teach their servants to read the word of God; to allow them to attend the public worship of God on our regular days of Divine service; to protect them in the discharge of the duties of the conjugal, parental, and filial relations; to give them such compensation for their services as may be just and equal; to make such provision as may be legally practicable to prevent them and their posterity from passing into perpetual slavery, and to treat them in all respects as required by the ten commandments and the law of love.

3. *Resolved*, That we recommend all our membership and ministry to make the condition of the Africans in bondage upon our shores a prominent subject of prayer; beseeching God to deliver them from their bondage without servile or civil wars, the dissolution of our Union, or any other judgment, and to incline the hearts of the American people to repent of all their oppression, and by all possible means atone for the wrongs they have done to the helpless.

4. *Resolved*, That we advise our people to memorialize Congress to provide by law, that whenever any slave State shall signify her willingness to emancipate her slaves, such State shall receive for her slaves a reasonable compensation from the national treasury for the slaves so to be emancipated.

Question of order. W. B. Disbro, who had spoken on the report of the Committee on Slavery, having obtained the floor, a question of order was raised by John P. Durbin, as to whether one who



had spoken on the report on Slavery, has a right now to speak on the substitute relating to the same general subject until every one desiring to speak shall have spoken.

The chair decided that the rule prohibits a second speech only on the particular motion under consideration at the time the member addressed the Conference, and does not prohibit him from speaking to any *new* motion or resolution, though it may involve the same general subject.

From this decision B. F. Crary appealed to the Conference, whereupon Thomas J. Thompson moved that the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the Conference; and the motion was sustained by a vote of 95 to 89.

C. Kingsley moved that the substitute lie on the table and be printed. J. A. Collins called for a division of the question, and the substitute was laid on the table; and so much of the motion as relates to printing the substitute was carried by a vote of 104 to 70.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Benjamin Griffen.

May 27, 1856.

Has a member a right to speak on the substitute who has spoken on the report?

Decision of the chair.

Rule applies to the particular motion under consideration.

Appeal from the decision of the chair.

Decision of the chair sustained.

Substitute laid on the table.

Adjournment.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 28, 1856.

May 28, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Samuel Wakefield, of the Pittsburgh Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

S. Y. Monroe moved to take up the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery.

A. Sanderson moved to lay the motion of S. Y. Monroe on the table, but the motion to lay on the table was lost, and the motion to take up the report prevailed.

Bishop Baker announced the following committee on the Report of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund, namely: F. Hodgson, A. M. Osbon, W. A. Wilmer, E. G. Wood, A. Webster.

Pending the discussion, W. H. Brockway moved that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at half past two o'clock P. M.

Thomas H. Pearne moved the following resolutions as a substitute to the foregoing motion, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at two o'clock P. M.

Motion to take up the Report on Slavery.

Motion to lay on the table lost, and original motion prevails.

Committee on Report of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund.

Motion to meet at half past two P. M.

Substitute offered.

- May 28, 1856. 2. *Resolved*, That no further debate shall be had on slavery after to-day.
- Substitute laid on the table. On motion of W. H. Brockway, the substitute was laid on the table.
- Motion amended and adopted. On motion of H. Slicer, the original motion was amended by striking out "half past two o'clock" and inserting "two o'clock," and the motion as amended was adopted.
- Adjournment. Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and with the benediction by Israel Chamberlayne.

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

- Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Baker in the chair.
- The usual religious services were conducted by P. S. Bennett, of the Wisconsin Conference.
- The Journal of this morning was read and approved.
- Report in relation to paying the widows and orphans of deceased Bishops. Heman Bangs, Chairman of the Committee on Temporal Economy, presented a report in relation to the paying the widows and orphans of deceased Bishops; it was read, and lies over under the rule.
- Order suspended. On motion of William Reddy, the regular order of business was suspended, and the consideration of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery was resumed.
- Report on Slavery taken up. Pending the discussion, Henry Slicer having spoken out his hour, on motion of R. S. Rust, he had liberty to continue his argument at pleasure.
- Slicer has permission to continue his argument at pleasure.
- Adjournment. Conference adjourned at six o'clock P. M.
- Benediction by H. Bangs.

May 29, 1856.

## THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 29, 1856.

- Conference met this morning; Bishop Ames in the chair.
- The usual religious services were conducted by A. M. Osbon, of the New-York Conference.
- The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.
- Order of business suspended for a specific purpose. On motion of John Kennaday, seconded by E. H. Pilcher, the regular order of business was suspended, to consider the following preamble and resolution, which they submitted, namely:
- Preamble and resolution relating to the *Whereas*, a very large amount of the most important business of the General Conference remains either untouched, or in a very imperfect state; and

*Whereas*, the Report of the Committee on Slavery, after occupying the attention of a large and able committee for several weeks, has engaged the attention of the Conference for several days, during which it has been extensively discussed; therefore,

May 29, 1856.  
action on the  
Report on  
Slavery.

*Resolved*, That after the speaker who shall be recognized by the chair this morning shall have spoken, the floor shall be conceded to the Chairman of the Committee on Slavery; after which, the Report of said committee shall be laid on the table, excepting the first resolution, which resolution shall be made the special order of the day for this morning at 11 o'clock.

First resolution  
of the Report  
on Slavery  
made the order  
of the day for  
11 o'clock.

W. H. Brockway moved, that the vote on the foregoing preamble and resolution be taken without further debate, and the motion prevailed, 156 voting in favor of it.

Call for the pre-  
vious question  
sustained.

The preamble and resolution were then adopted.

Preamble and  
resolution  
adopted.  
Report on Slav-  
ery taken up.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the consideration of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery was resumed.

At the close of the argument of the Chairman of the Committee on Slavery, John M'Clintock obtained the floor, and a question of order was raised, as to whether the resolution adopted this morning lays the second resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery on the table without further vote of the Conference to that effect.

Question of or-  
der.  
Is the second  
resolution laid  
on the table by  
vote of this  
morning?

The chair decided that the second resolution of the Report was not laid upon the table by the adoption of the aforesaid resolution this morning.

Chair decides  
not.

From this decision an appeal was taken to the Conference; whereupon, H. Slicer moved, that the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the Conference; but the motion to sustain the decision of the chair was lost by a vote of 93 to 107.

Appeal from the  
decision of the  
chair.

Decision of the  
chair not sus-  
tained.

Whereupon, the chair announced that, by this action of the Conference, it was decided that the Report of the Committee on Slavery, excepting the first resolution, was laid on the table by force of the resolution relating to that subject adopted this morning.

Report on Slav-  
ery, except the  
first resolution,  
laid on the ta-  
ble.

On motion of H. Bangs, it was resolved, that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Afternoon ses-  
sion.

The chair decided that J. M'Clintock was entitled to the floor. From this decision W. Hosmer appealed, when, on motion of T. J. Thompson, the appeal was laid on the table.

Chair assigns  
the floor.  
Appeal taken,  
but laid on the  
table.

John M'Clintock moved to take from the table the second resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery.

Motion to take  
up the report  
just laid on the  
table.

May 29, 1856.  
Question of order.

Is the first resolution of the Report *now* before the Conference?

Chair decides not.

Appeal from the decision taken.

Adjournment.

A question of order was raised, to wit: whether, by force of the resolution adopted this morning, the first resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery is not now before the Conference.

The chair decided that the first resolution is not before the Conference, unless taken up by specific vote to that effect.

H. Mattison took an appeal from this decision of the chair, and while the appeal was pending, on motion of John A. Collins, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Bishop Waugh.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by George Pratt, of East Maine Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Motion to suspend the order of the day.

Amendment proposed.

Motion to lay the amendment on the table.

Lost.

Amendment prevails.

Motion carried.

First resolution of the report taken up.

Call for the previous question sustained.

Yeas and nays ordered.

B. Griffen moved to suspend the order of the day. H. Mattison moved to amend by adding, "for the purpose of taking up the first resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery." Thomas H. Pearne moved to lay the amendment on the table. The motion to lay on the table was lost, the amendment prevailed, and the motion as amended was carried.

On motion of John M'Clintock, the first resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery was taken up.

A. Sanderson, seconded by J. S. Porter, moved that the vote on the adoption of the resolution be taken without further debate, and the motion was carried by a vote of 146 to 55.

On motion of John A. Collins, the yeas and nays were ordered, the roll of Conference was called, and the vote was as follows, namely:

**Ayes.**

*Ayes.*—Allen of Maine, Allyn of Southern Illinois, Baker, Bannister, Barnes, Bennett, Berry, Bingham, Blakeslee, Bowers, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brouse, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Troy, Buck of East Genesee, Burlingham, Burns, Button, Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Coggeshall, Cook, Cox, Crary, Crews, Crowell, Culver, Dana, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Dustin, Erwin, Evans, Farrington, Finley, Flower, Floy,



Fowble, French, Gillet, Gorrie, Gregg, Griffin of Troy, Griswold, Gurley, Hall, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Heath, Henderson, Hibbard, Hill of Erie, Hitchcock, Holliday, Hosmer, Hoyt, Hulburd, Hull, Kenney, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Knox, Leihy, Lemon, Lowrey, Marcy, Mattison, Moffatt, Morey, Mulfinger, Parks of Troy, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Wyoming, Phelps, Pilcher of Michigan, Pilcher of North Ohio, Pillsbury, Poe, Porter of New-England, Pratt, Randall, Raymond, Reddy, Reid of New-York East, Requa, Rice of New-England, Rust, Sanderson, Sapp, Simonds, Smith of New-Hampshire, Stallard, Starks, Starr, Stanton, Stevens, Thayer, Thompson of North-western Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Waite, Wakefield, Washburn, Watson, Watts, Webster, Whedon, Wheeler, Wilson of Erie, Wise, Witherspoon, Yocum, Young of Cincinnati.—122.

May 29, 1856.

*Nays.*—Baird, Bangs, Barker, Battelle, Beach, Bewley, Blain, Blake, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of Illinois, Carlton, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Collins of Baltimore, Collins of Michigan, Connell, Conrey, Coombe, Cooper of Philadelphia, Corrington, Crawford, Crooks, Cunningham, Drummond, Durbin, Felch, Goheen, Graham, Griffen of New-York, Griffith, Hamilton, Hill of Indiana, Hirst, Hodgson, Hopkins, Howard, Jamison, Kennaday, King of New-York, Kinsley, Kising, Kuhl, Lanahan, Lauck, Lenhart, Lewis, Luccock, M'Clintock, M'Combs, Martin of Western Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Merwin, Monroe, Morgan, Nast, Nichols, Osbon, Pearne of Oregon, Peck, Perry, Poisal, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Quigley, Reed of Iowa, Reese, Rice of New-York, Roberts, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sargent, Slicer, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Swaim, Talbot, Thompson of Philadelphia, Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Van Deusen, Walker, Wallace, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wood, Worthington, Young of Ohio—96.

*Nays.*

*Absentees.*—Dimmitt, Phillips.

Absent.

As two thirds of the members did not favor the motion it was lost, according to the rule of the Discipline in such cases made and provided.

Resolution lost.

M. Raymond moved to take up the second resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery.

Motion to take up the second resolution of the report.

May 29, 1856.

Moved to make  
the motion the  
special order  
for Friday of  
next week.  
Adjournment.

Thomas H. Pearne moved that the motion be made the special order of the day for Friday of next week, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion of D. B. Randall, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by J. Flower.

May 30, 1856.

## FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 30, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Morris in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by H. Crews, of the Rock River Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

Motion to suspend the regular order to take up the Report on Slavery, in order to offer a substitute.  
Motion to lay on the table.

James Floy moved to suspend the regular order of the day in order to take up the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery, with a view to offer a substitute for the second resolution of said report.

E. E. Griswold moved that the foregoing motion lie on the table, and on motion of W. H. Pearne, it was ordered that the vote on the motion to lie on the table be taken by yeas and nays.

Ayes and nays ordered.

The roll of the Conference was called, and the vote stands as follows, namely :

Ayes.

*Ayes.*—Allen of Maine, Allyn of Southern Illinois, Baird, Bangs, Barker, Battelle, Beach, Berry, Bewley, Blain, Blake, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brouse, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Brown of Troy, Buck of Illinois, Carlton, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Coggeshall, Collins of Baltimore, Connell, Conrey, Coombe, Cooper, Corrington, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crews, Crooks, Cunningham, Drummond, Durbin, Farrington, Felch, Finley, French, Goheen, Graham, Griffen of New-York, Griffin of Troy, Griffith, Griswold, Hamilton, Heath, Hill of Indiana, Hill of Erie, Hirst, Hodgson, Holliday, Hopkins, Howard, Hoyt, Jamison, Kennaday, King of New-York, Kinsley, Kisling, Kuhl, Lanahan, Lauck, Lenhart, Lewis, Luccock, M'Clintock, M'Combs, Martin of Western Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Merwin, Monroe, Morgan, Nast, Nichols, Osbon, Pearne of Oregon, Peck, Perry, Pilcher of North Ohio, Pillsbury, Poe, Poisal, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Pratt, Quigley, Reed of Iowa, Reid of New-York East, Reese, Rice of New-York, Roberts, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sander-

son, Sargent, Simonds, Slicer, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Starks, Stevens, Swaim, Talbot, Thompson of Philadelphia, Trimble, Triplett, Trotter, Van Cleve, Van Deusen, Walker, Wallace, Washburn, Watson, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wilson of Erie, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, Young of Ohio—124.

May 30, 1856.

*Nays.*—Baker, Bannister, Barnes, Bennet, Bingham, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd of Northwest Indiana, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brown of Cincinnati, Buck of East Genesee, Burlingham, Burns, Button, Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Collins of Michigan, Cook, Crowell, Dana, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Erwin, Evans, Flower, Floy, Fowble, Gillet, Gorrie, Gregg, Gurley, Hall, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Henderson, Hibbard, Hitchcock, Hosmer, Hulburt, Hull, Kenney, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Knox, Leihy, Lemon, Lowry, Marcy, Mattison, Moffat, Morey, Mulfinger, Parks of Troy, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Wyoming, Phelps, Pilcher of Michigan, Porter of New-England, Randall, Raymond, Reddy, Requa, Rice of New-England, Rust, Sapp, Smith of New-Hampshire, Stallard, Starr, Stanton, Thayer, Thompson of Northwest Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Waite, Wakefield, Watts, Webster, Wheeler, Whedon, Witherspoon, Young of Cincinnati—91.

So the motion was laid on the table.

*Absentees.*—Culver, Dimmitt, Dustin, Phillips, Wise—5.

*Absentees.*

George Peck, Chairman of the Commissioners of the Church suit in New-York, appointed at the last General Conference, submitted the report of said committee. It was read and placed on file. [For Report, see *Appendix Z.*]

Church suit in New-York.

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report in relation to the case of Oliver Burgess as follows, to wit:

The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred so much of the Journal of the North Ohio Conference as relates to the case of Oliver Burgess, a former member of that Conference, beg leave to report:

That, on examination, they find the Conference passed the character of said Burgess, recognized his withdrawal from the connection, and entered the same on the Journals; that they subsequently reconsidered the passage of his character without reconsidering their recognition of his withdrawal from the Church, and then refused to pass his character. We therefore recommend for adoption the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in

Report of Committee on Itinerancy relative to the Journal of North Ohio Conference in the case of Oliver Burgess.

**May 30, 1856.** General Conference assembled, That the action of the North Ohio Conference in reconsidering the passage of the character of O. Burgess after they had recognized his withdrawal from the Church, and then refusing to pass his character, was irregular and unauthorized.

**Motion to re-mand the case. Lost.** Pending the consideration of this report, John H. Power moved that the case be remanded to the North Ohio Conference for re-adjudication; but the motion did not prevail, and the report as submitted was adopted.

**Report adopted.** Thomas Carlton, Chairman of the Committee on Boundaries, submitted a report. It was read by the Secretary of the committee, and lies on the table under the rule.

**Report on Boundaries submitted.** W. Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, submitted a report relating to Scandinavian Missions, and to the support of Superannuated Missionaries. It was read, and lies on the table under the rule.

**Lies over under the rule.** N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a further report, and it was adopted as follows, namely:

**Report concerning questions relating to stewards.** The Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred certain questions respecting Stewards, signed by S. Washburn and S. D. Brown, beg leave to report for adoption the following, namely:

*Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the duties and prerogatives of stewards in the Methodist Episcopal Church are well defined in the Discipline, and that the questions proposed to the General Conference by S. Washburn and S. D. Brown, properly belong to the President of a Quarterly or an Annual Conference.

**Letter of Wm. Simmons reported back.** N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, reported back the letter of William Simmons, stating that it contained a communication to the Conference merely, and nothing calling for the action of the committee; and on motion of J. P. Durbin, the communication was laid on the table.

**Laid on the table.** John Kennaday, Chairman of the Committee on the Episcopacy, submitted the following report, which was adopted:

**Report of the Committee on Episcopacy.** The Committee on Episcopacy beg leave to report: That the various subjects claiming their attention have been duly considered.

**Characters of the Bishops passed.** From every conference information has been received respecting the administration; and the result shows that the Bishops have been faithful in their work, and that they enjoy the full confidence and affection of the respective conferences. The committee therefore recommend that their characters pass.

**Memorials to be retained by chairmen of committees.** On motion of J. H. Perry, Conference directed that all memorials presented to this body and referred to the several committees, be left in the hands of the chairmen of the committees respectively.



Peter Cartwright, Chairman of a Select Committee on Church Extension, submitted a report containing the following resolutions, and the report was adopted.

May 30, 1856.  
Report on  
Church Extension.  
Adopted.

1. *Resolved*, That we appreciate and commend the zeal of our brethren at Chicago, yet we do not think it practicable at this time to organize such a society as they desire.

2. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the Annual Conferences, as having this work more immediately under their supervision and control, to adopt such measures as are best calculated, according to their circumstances and necessities, and by all prudential means, to secure the desired end.

[For the Report, see *Appendix AA.*]

Henry W. Reed, Chairman of the Special Committee, to whom was referred the memorial of Reeder Smith, submitted a report in relation to the case.

Report on the  
case of Reeder  
Smith.

P. S. Bennett, on behalf of himself and H. Summers, presented a Minority Report, and on motion of N. Wilson, it was laid on the table.

Minority Report  
in the above  
case laid on the  
table.

On motion of B. F. Crary, the report of the majority of the committee in the case of Reeder Smith was laid on the table by a vote of 80 to 50.

Majority Report  
laid on the table.

George F. Brown, Chairman of the Special Committee on Colored Members, presented a report, which was read, and lies on the table under the rule.

Report relating  
to Colored  
Members.  
Lies over under  
the rule.

D. W. Clark, Chairman of the Special Committee, to whom was referred the subject of Lay Delegation, submitted a report.

Report on Lay  
Delegation.

On motion of F. G. Hibbard, the report was recommitted to afford the committee an opportunity of receiving and considering sundry memorials on that subject, which have not yet come into their hands.

Report recom-  
mitted.

On motion, Conference determined that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon ses-  
sion.

A. Lowrey submitted the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That we recommend the Committee on Lay Delegation to consider the propriety of so altering the Discipline as to allow Lay Financial Delegates in our Annual Conferences.

Resolution relat-  
ing to Financial  
Delegates.

On motion of J. S. Martin, Conference adjourned.  
Benediction by J. Lewis.

Adjournment.

May 30, 1856.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Janes in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by John Kissing, of the Southeastern Indiana Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

Members absent on call of yeas and nays permitted to record their votes.

E. G. Wood records his vote in the negative.

On motion, members not present on the call of the yeas and nays were permitted to record their votes on the question taken in that method this morning.

On motion, E. G. Wood, who was not present yesterday when the vote was taken on the first resolution of the Report of the Majority of the Committee on Slavery, was permitted to record his vote; and he voted in the negative.

Motion to suspend the order of the day to take up the Report on Book Depository, &c., at St. Louis.

Motion laid on the table.

Motion to suspend the order of the day.

Amendment proposed.

Motion to lay the amendment on the table.

Lost.

Substitute for the amendment.

Substitute laid on the table.

A second substitute for the amendment.

Substitute adopted.

Motion as amended carried.

Report relating to Baptized Children read. To be considered item by item.

The first Question and Answer considered.

W. D. R. Trotter moved to suspend the order of the day to take up the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern relating to a Book Depository and Paper at St. Louis.

On motion of H. Requa, the motion to suspend for the purpose indicated was laid on the table.

S. Van Deusen moved to suspend the regular order of the day.

J. P. Durbin moved to amend by adding, "for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on Missions."

S. Van Deusen moved to lay the amendment on the table, but the motion was lost by a vote of 60 to 79.

James Floy moved to substitute for the amendment, "for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on the Tract Cause."

On motion of John M'Clintock, the substitute was laid on the table.

F. G. Hibbard moved as a substitute for the amendment, "for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on Revisals in relation to Baptized Children."

The substitute was adopted, and the motion as amended prevailed.

The report relating to baptized children was then taken up and read.

On motion of F. G. Hibbard, Conference proceeded to consider the several items *seriatim*.

The first question and its answer having been read,

J. B. Merwin moved to amend the answer to the question by striking out the word "expected," and insert instead

thereof the word "required," and by striking out the words "using all diligence in bringing," and inserting instead thereof the words "covenant to bring." May 30, 1856.  
Proposed amendment.

On motion of W. B. Disbro, the motion to amend was laid on the table. Amendment laid on the table.

F. Hodgson moved to amend by striking out the words "in a state of grace," and insert the words "in favor with God." Amendment proposed.

On motion of S. Wakefield, the proposed amendment was laid on the table. Amendment laid on the table.

S. Washburn moved to refer the whole report to a select committee, to consider and report to the next General Conference. Motion to refer to a committee to report to the next General Conference.

On motion of W. H. Pearne, the foregoing motion was laid on the table. Motion to refer laid on the table.

D. W. Bristol moved that the vote on the Answer to the First Question be taken without further debate; the motion prevailed, and the Answer was adopted. Previous question ordered.  
First Question and Answer adopted.

The Second Question and Answer were read and adopted. Second Question and Answer adopted.

The Third Question, with its several Answers, was read, when, on motion of J. M'Clintock, Conference agreed to consider the several Answers in order. The First and Second Answers to the Third Question were then adopted. Answers to the Third Question to be considered in their order.

Pending the consideration of the Third Answer to this Question, H. Kinsley moved to amend it by inserting after the words "a desire to flee from the wrath to come," the words, "and to be saved from their sins." First and Second Answers adopted.  
Amendment proposed.

D. B. Randall moved to lay both the Answer and the proposed amendment on the table. Motion to lay the Answer and amendment on the table.

A division of the question having been ordered, the motion to lay the amendment on the table was lost. The amendment was then adopted. Division of the question ordered.  
Amendment adopted.

Israel Chamberlayne moved that the vote be now taken without further debate; the motion prevailed, and the Third Answer to Question Third, as amended, was adopted. The Fourth Answer to the Third Question was then adopted. Previous question ordered.  
Third Answer adopted.  
Fourth Answer adopted.

The report, as a whole, was then adopted in words following, to wit: Report as a whole adopted.

The Committee on Revisals, to whom was referred the subject of the Relation of Baptized Children to the Church, having maturely considered this important subject, beg leave to present the following as their report, which they recommend to be inserted in the Discipline as sec. 3 of ch. ii, Part I, on page 31. Report on the Relation of Baptized Children.  
Adopted.

### SECTION III.—Of Baptized Children.

*Quest. 1.* Are all young children entitled to Baptism?

*Ans.* We hold that all children, by virtue of the unconditional Discipline changed.  
All young chil-

May 30, 1856.  
Children entitled  
to Baptism.

benefits of the atonement, are members of the kingdom of God, and, therefore, graciously entitled to baptism; but as infant baptism contemplates a course of religious instruction and discipline, it is expected of all parents or guardians who present their children for baptism, that they use all diligence in bringing them up in conformity to the word of God, and they should be solemnly admonished of this obligation, and earnestly exhorted to faithfulness therein.

*Ques. 2.* What is the relation of baptized children to the Church?

Relation of Bap-  
tized Children  
to the Church.

*Ans.* We regard all children who have been baptized, as placed in visible covenant relation to God, and under the special care and supervision of the Church.

*Ques. 3.* What shall be done for the baptized children of our Church?

Register of the  
Residences,  
Parentage,  
Names, and  
dates of the  
Birth and Bap-  
tism of Chil-  
dren.

*Ans. 1.* The preacher in charge shall preserve a full and accurate register of the names of all the baptized children within his pastoral care; the dates of their birth, baptism, their parentage, and places of residence.

To be taught  
the nature and  
design of Bap-  
tism.

*Ans. 2.* As early as they shall be able to understand, let them be taught the nature, design, and obligations of their baptism, and the truths of religion necessary to make them wise unto salvation; let them be encouraged to attend class, and to give regular attendance upon all the means of grace, according to their age, capacity, and religious experience.

To attend class.

*Ans. 3.* Whenever they shall have attained an age sufficient to understand the obligations of religion, and shall give evidence of a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins, their names shall be enrolled in the list of probationers; and if they shall continue to give evidence of a principle and habit of piety, they may be admitted into full membership in our Church, on the recommendation of a leader with whom they have met at least six months in class, by publicly assenting before the Church to the baptismal covenant, and also the usual questions on doctrines and discipline.

To be received  
into full mem-  
bership.

*Ans. 4.* Whenever a baptized child shall by orphanage, or otherwise, become deprived of Christian guardianship, the preacher in charge shall ascertain and report to the Leaders' Meeting, the facts in the case; and such provision shall be made for the Christian training of the child, as the circumstances of the case admit and require.

Daniel Wise ex-  
cused and Wil-  
liam Livesey  
admitted to a  
seat.

A. Stevens stated that Daniel Wise, a delegate to this body from the Providence Conference, was seriously ill, and would not be able to resume his seat at all during the session: whereupon, on motion, William Livesey, a reserve delegate from Providence Conference, was admitted to a seat in his stead.

J. G. Dimmitt  
has leave of ab-  
sence.

H. W. Reed asked leave of absence for J. G. Dimmitt, on account of sickness in his family; and on motion leave was granted accordingly.

Paying widows  
and orphans of  
deceased  
bishops.

On motion of H. Bangs, the Report of the Committee on Temporal Economy, relating to the method of paying the widows and orphans of deceased bishops, was taken up, and adopted in words following, to wit:

The Committee on Temporal Economy beg leave to report in part the following resolution, on the paying the widows and orphans of deceased bishops, namely:



*Resolved*, That answer 3, section 1, chapter iii, Part III, of the Discipline be stricken out, and the following inserted :

The widows and orphans of deceased bishops shall be allowed to draw on the funds of the Book Concern annually for their Disciplinary allowance.

May 30, 1856.  
Discipline  
changed.

S. Van Deusen, seconded by William Reddy, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the election of Book Agents, Editors of the Church periodicals, Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society, and Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Union, be the special order of the day to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Resolution fix-  
ing the time of  
the elections.

On motion of T. J. Quigley, the resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the  
table.

Thomas H. Pearne, seconded by William Roberts, moved the following resolution, and it was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of this Conference be authorized to supervise and edit the Journal of this Conference for publication by the Book Concern at New-York, and that the Agents be directed to remunerate him suitably for the service.

Secretary ap-  
pointed to edit  
the Journal of  
this General  
Conference.

A motion was made to adjourn, but it did not prevail.

Motion to ad-  
journ.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, a call was made for memorials and petitions, and the following were presented and referred, namely :

Lost.  
Call for memo-  
rials and peti-  
tions.

TROY CONFERENCE.—W. Griffin presented a copy of the last will and testament of James Bourdet, by which will the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States is made a residuary devisee; and it was referred to a select committee of three.

Troy.  
Copy of will of  
James Bour-  
det.  
Referred.

GENESEE CONFERENCE.—Thomas Carlton presented a memorial from Buffalo on the subject of Lay Delegation, and it was referred to the Committee on Lay Delegation.

GENESEE.  
Memorial from  
Buffalo on Lay  
Delegation.  
Referred.

He also presented two invitations to the General Conference to hold its next session in the city of Buffalo, one from the Quarterly Conference of the Niagara-street Church, and the other from the Presiding Elder of the district, and the pastors of the city, and they were laid on the table till the subject to which they relate shall be taken up; and they were ordered to be printed.

Invitations to  
hold the next  
session in  
Buffalo.  
Laid on the  
table.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.—P. S. Bennett presented a memorial on Slavery from Kenosha, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

WISCONSIN.  
Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Kenosha.  
Referred.

NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE.—W. B. Disbro presented a memorial from Elyria Station on the subject of Lay Delegation, and it was referred to the committee on that subject.

NORTH OHIO.  
Memorial from  
Elyria on Lay  
Delegation.  
Referred.

May 30, 1856.

CINCINNATI.  
Memorial from  
Greenville and  
Palestine on  
Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Cedar County,  
Iowa.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Edgar Con-  
kling.  
Referred.

Motion to read  
the memorial.  
Lost.

NEW-ENGLAND.  
A memorial on  
Slavery from  
Meridian-  
street.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Slavery from  
Bromfield-  
street.  
Referred.

NEW-JERSEY.  
Memorial from  
N. Brunswick  
on Boundaries.  
Referred.

Memorial ask-  
ing that the  
Chapter on  
Slavery remain  
unaltered.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Belleville, pray-  
ing that no  
change be  
made in the  
Discipline on  
Slavery.  
Referred.

Memorial on  
Boundaries  
from New-  
Brunswick.  
Referred.

Memorial ask-  
ing that no  
change in the  
Discipline on  
Slavery be  
made.  
Referred.

Memorial from  
Grant Good-  
rich, on Scrip-  
ture texts to  
accompany the  
Articles of Re-  
ligion.  
Referred.

CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.—James B. Finley presented a memorial from Greenville and Palestine Circuits, praying that they may be set off from the North Ohio Conference to the Cincinnati Conference, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a memorial from members of the Church in Cedar County, Iowa, on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

George W. Walker presented a memorial from Edgar Conkling, on appointing ministers of the Gospel to secular positions, and it was referred to the Committee on Temporal Economy. On the presentation of the foregoing memorial, a motion was made that it be read, but the motion was lost.

NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE.—L. R. Thayer presented a memorial from Meridian-street Church, Boston, on Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

James Porter presented a memorial on Slavery from Bromfield-street Church, Boston, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE.—S. Y. Monroe presented a memorial from the Pitman Methodist Episcopal Church, New-Brunswick, on the subject of Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a memorial from the same source, asking that the Chapter on Slavery in the Discipline remain unaltered; and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

John S. Swaim presented a memorial from members of the Church on Belleville Circuit, praying that no alteration be made in the Discipline on the subject of Slavery, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

W. A. Wilmer presented a memorial from Liberty-street Station, New-Brunswick, on the subject of Boundaries, and it was referred to the Committee on Boundaries. He also presented a memorial from the same source, praying that no change in relation to the subject of Slavery be made in the Discipline, and it was referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Bishop Simpson presented a memorial from Grant Goodrich, of Chicago, praying that in the publication of the "Articles of Religion" in the Discipline, the most prominent and pertinent texts of Scripture on which the several articles are founded may be referred to under each article. The memorial was read, and referred to the Committee on Revisals.

T. J. Thompson, seconded by S. D. Brown, moved the following resolution, namely :

May 30, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the election of the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati ; the Secretaries of the Missionary, Sunday-school, and Tract Societies, and the editors of the several Church periodicals which are to be chosen by the General Conference, be the special order of the day for Tuesday, the 3d of June, at 9 o'clock A. M., as follows :

Resolution fixing the time and the order of the elections.

1. Book Agent at New-York.
2. Assistant Book Agent at New-York.
3. Editor of the Quarterly Review, &c.
4. Missionary Secretary.
5. Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.
6. Secretary of the Sunday-School Union.
7. Secretary of the Tract Society, &c.
8. Editor of the National Magazine.
9. Book Agent at Cincinnati.
10. Assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati.
11. Editor of the Western Christian Advocate.
12. Editor of the Ladies' Repository.
13. Editor of the Christian Apologist.
14. Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.
15. Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate.

On motion of John A. Collins, the foregoing resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 88 to 65.

Resolution laid on the table.

J. B. Merwin, seconded by William Roberts, moved the following resolution, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Revisals be requested to consider the expedience of changing the second paragraph of the second section of chapter second, having reference to the time of the sessions of the General Conference, so as to read, "once in seven years."

Resolution to provide for Septennial Sessions of the General Conference.

A motion, by R. Sapp, to lay the foregoing resolution on the table, was lost by a vote 62 to 74.

Motion to lay on the table. Lost.

On motion of Thomas H. Pearne, it was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

Referred.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

Adjournment.

Benediction by I. Chamberlayne.

## SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 31, 1856.

May 31, 1856.

Conference met this morning ; Bishop Scott in the chair. The usual religious services were conducted by J. L. Lenhart, of the New-Jersey Conference.

The Journal of yesterday afternoon was read and approved.

On motion of J. D. Blain, the regular order of business was suspended, and the Report of the Committee on Boundaries was taken up.

Report on Boundaries taken up.

May 31, 1856.  
Committee on  
the of Will of J.  
Bourdet.

Bishop Baker announced the following committee on the Last Will and Testament of James Bourdet, namely :

William Griffin, James H. Perry, and S. D. Brown.

Action on  
Boundaries.

Conference proceeded to consider the Boundaries of the Conferences severally. The Boundary of the New-York Conference was adopted as reported by the committee.

NEW-YORK  
EAST.

Amendment  
proposed.

Pending the consideration of the Boundary of the New-York East Conference, James Floy moved to amend by adding the words, "except also any church edifice that may be erected from the proceeds of the sale of the John-street Church."

Amendment  
laid on the ta-  
ble.

On motion of M. D'C. Crawford, the proposed amendment was laid on the table by a vote of 96 to 33 ; and the Boundary as reported by the committee was adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundaries of the Providence, New-England, Maine, New-Hampshire, Troy, Black River, Oneida, Wyoming, East Genesee, and Genesee Conferences, severally, was read and adopted.

Amendment  
proposed.

Pending the consideration of the report relating\* to the Boundary of the Erie Conference, S. Gregg moved to amend by striking out the words, "lying east of the Cuyahoga River."

Laid on the  
table.

The motion to amend was laid on the table, and the report of the committee in relation to the Boundary of the Erie Conference was adopted.

Amendment  
proposed.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundary of the Pittsburgh Conference was read, when A. Poe moved to amend by striking out the word "including" and inserting the word "excluding" immediately preceding the word "Massilon."

Laid on the  
table.

On motion of J. Cunningham, the proposed amendment was laid on the table, and the Boundary as reported by the committee was adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundary of the Western Virginia and Ohio Conferences was read and adopted.

So much of the report as relates to the Boundary of the Cincinnati Conference was read.

Amendment  
proposed.

George W. Walker moved to amend the report so as to include West Liberty and Greenville Stations and Palestine Circuit, now of the North Ohio Conference, in the Cincinnati Conference.

Laid on the  
table.

On motion of H. Bangs, the motion to amend was laid on the table, and the Boundary as reported was adopted.



The report of the committee relating to the Boundaries of the Kentucky and North Ohio Conferences was read and adopted.

May 31, 1856.

The report of the committee concerning the Boundary of Delaware Conference was read.

A. Poe moved to amend by so changing the line recommended as to *exclude* Galena and South Delaware Circuit, but still including the Ohio Wesleyan University.

Amendment proposed.

On motion of James B. Finley, the proposed amendment was laid on the table, and the Boundary as reported was adopted.

Laid on the table.

The report of the committee in relation to the Boundaries of the Michigan, Detroit, Indiana, Northwestern Indiana, North Indiana, Southeastern Indiana, Rock River, and Peoria Conferences, severally, was read and adopted.

With consent, Peter Cartwright, seconded by H. Crews, moved the following preamble and resolution, namely :

*Whereas* it is mutually agreed between the delegates of the Illinois and Peoria Conferences, that they are jointly to patronize the Wesleyan University in Bloomington, now in the Illinois Conference ; and

Preamble and resolution relating to the Western Charge in Bloomington.

*Whereas* it is futher agreed, that if the said Peoria Conference shall adopt the said University, and aid the Illinois Conference in building up said institution of learning, then and in that event the Western Charge in Bloomington is to be attached to the Peoria Conference ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That in the event of the compliance of the Peoria Conference with the above agreement, our bishops are requested to attach said Western Charge to the Peoria Conference, and supply it accordingly.

The preamble and resolution were adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundaries of the Wisconsin, West Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Upper Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, and Illinois Conferences, severally, was read and adopted.

Pending the consideration of the report relating to the Boundary of the Southern Illinois Conference, J. B. Corrington moved so to amend it as to *include* Hillsborough Station in the Southern Illinois Conference, but the motion to amend was laid on the table, and the Boundary as reported was adopted.

Amendment proposed.

Laid on the table.

The report of the committee in relation to the Boundaries of the Missouri and Arkansas Conferences was read and adopted.

The report of the committee relating to the Boundary of the Baltimore Conference was read.

May 31, 1856.

A. Griffith, seconded by William Hamilton, moved the following as a substitute for so much of the report of the committee as relates to the Baltimore Conference, namely :

Substitute proposed.

The Baltimore Conference shall consist of the territory now included in the Baltimore, Potomac, Winchester, Rockingham, and Lewisburg Districts.

Laid on the table.

On motion of H. Bangs, the substitute was laid on the table.

Substitute adopted.

I. Parks moved as a substitute, That the Baltimore Conference remain intact, and a call for the previous question having been sustained, the motion was carried by a vote of 92 to 82.

Motion to allow Baltimore Conference to divide itself by a two-thirds vote.

H. Slicer moved that the Baltimore Conference be allowed and authorized, at any session of the said Conference within the next four years, by a vote of two thirds of its members in favor of the measure, and with the concurrence of the bishop presiding at the said session, to divide the said Baltimore Conference.

Amendment proposed.

J. Lanahan moved to amend by striking out "two thirds" and inserting "a majority."

Motion to lay on the table lost.

H. Slicer moved to lay the motion to amend on the table, but the motion did not prevail.

Previous question ordered.

On motion of J. Lanahan it was ordered, by a vote of 134 to 17, that the question be taken without further debate.

Amendment carried.

The amendment substituting the words "a majority" for the words "two thirds" was carried, and the motion as amended prevailed.

Afternoon session.

On motion of W. Reddy it was resolved, that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet at two o'clock this afternoon.

Motion to reconsider the vote in the case of Baltimore Conference.

J. P. Durbin moved to reconsider the vote by which Baltimore Conference was authorized to divide by its own action.

Motion laid on the table.

On motion of John Poisal, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Speakers, except chairmen, limited to five minutes.

H. Bangs moved that each speaker in debate, except chairmen of committees, be restricted to five minutes. The motion was adopted.

Report on Boundaries laid on the table.

On motion of John S. Porter, the Report of the Committee on Boundaries was laid on the table.

Committee on Expenses of Delegates report.

J. S. Porter, Chairman of the Committee on the Expenses of Delegates, submitted the following report, namely :

The Committee on the Expenses of the Delegates beg leave to report,

That they have so far progressed with the business assigned to

them, as to ascertain that there will be a deficiency of nearly three thousand three hundred dollars. They submit to the General Conference the following resolutions, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That a draft be ordered on the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, (two thirds of which to be paid by the former, and the remaining one third by the latter,) for an amount sufficient to cover the deficiency.

2. *Resolved*, That in those circuits and stations where collections have not been taken up to meet those expenses, agreeably to the directions of the Discipline, we will on our return make an effort to have such collections taken, and the money so raised shall be forwarded to the agents at New-York and Cincinnati, as an indemnity for the above draft.

3. *Resolved*, That the Chairman of the Committee on Expenses of the Delegates be authorized to draw for the amount of deficiency on the agents at New-York and Cincinnati, as provided in the first resolution.

May 31, 1856.

Deficiency  
\$3,300.

Draft ordered  
for the amount.

Collections to  
be taken here-  
after where  
none have  
been taken  
hitherto.

Chairman of  
committee  
authorized to  
draw for the  
amount.

Report adopted.

On motion of H. Bangs, the foregoing report was adopted.

John Poisal, seconded by James Cunningham, moved the following resolution, namely:

*Resolved*, That this General Conference will adjourn *sine die* on Wednesday next, the third of June, at 12 o'clock M.

Resolution to  
adjourn *sine*  
*die*.

This resolution was laid on the table.

Laid on the  
table.

H. Bangs moved that the election of officers be made the order of the day for Monday morning at 9 o'clock. An amendment proposing to insert "Tuesday" instead of "Monday," and still another to insert "Wednesday" instead of "Monday." Pending the motion and amendments, Conference adjourned by expiration of time. Conference united in singing the Doxology, and the benediction was pronounced by J. Floy.

Amendments  
proposed.

Adjournment.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Isaac Parks, of the Oneida Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

James B. Finley moved to suspend the regular order of the day, for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on Boundaries.

Motion to take  
up the Report  
on Boundaries.

Thomas H. Pearne moved to amend, so as to take up the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern, in relation to the Pacific Christian Advocate, and the Central Christian Advocate.

Proposed  
amendment.

The amendment was laid on the table, and the original

Laid on the ta-  
ble.

- Mar 31, 1856.  
Report on  
Boundaries taken up.  
Motion to recommit so much as relates to Baltimore and Baltimore East Conferences.  
Motion to recommit laid on the table.  
Report relating to Baltimore and East Baltimore Conferences struck out, and Boundaries in the Discipline inserted.
- Report relating to New-JERSEY reconsidered and amended.
- NEWARK CONFERENCE.  
Motion to amend.
- Motion to recommit.  
Laid on the table.  
Amendment laid on the table.
- Motion to recommit laid on the table.
- Motion to amend.
- Motion to lay on the table.  
Lost.
- Section fixing Boundaries of New-Jersey Conference reconsidered and amended.
- motion prevailed, and the Report of the Committee on Boundaries was taken up.
- A. J. Phelps moved that so much of the report as related to the Baltimore and Baltimore East Conferences, be recommitted, with instructions to divide the territory into three Conferences.
- On motion of John A. Collins, the foregoing motion was laid on the table.
- On motion of H. Bangs, so much of the report as relates to the Baltimore and Baltimore East Conferences was struck out, and the Boundary of the Baltimore Conference, as set forth in the Discipline, inserted instead thereof.
- The report of the committee concerning the Philadelphia and New-Jersey Conferences was read and adopted.
- Afterward, on motion of J. S. Porter, the vote adopting the Boundary of the New-Jersey Conference was reconsidered, and on further motion of J. S. Porter, the item was amended by striking out the words, "the City of New-Brunswick and," and the section as amended was adopted.
- The report of the committee relating to the Newark Conference was read.
- J. S. Porter moved to amend so as to include the City of New-Brunswick.
- H. Kinsley moved to recommit the report, but the motion was laid on the table.
- W. Reddy moved to lay the amendment proposed by J. S. Porter on the table, and the motion was carried by a vote of 48 to 44.
- W. Reddy moved to recommit the report.
- On motion of T. H. Pearne, the motion to recommit was laid on the table.
- J. P. Durbin moved to amend so as to include New-Brunswick, Milltown, South River, and South Amboy in the Newark Conference.
- A motion was made that so much of the Report of the Committee on Boundaries as relates to the Newark Conference, be laid on the table; but the motion was lost by a vote of 39 to 70.
- On motion of J. S. Porter, the vote adopting the section relating to the New-Jersey Conference was reconsidered; and, on further motion of J. S. Porter, the words "the City of New-Brunswick and" struck from this item heretofore, were restored, and the section, as amended, was adopted.



The report of the committee relating to the Newark, Oregon, California, and Liberia Mission Conferences was read and adopted.

May 31, 1856.

The report of the committee in relation to a Mission Annual Conference in Germany was read.

Mission Conference in Germany.

J. Dodge moved to amend the section by striking out the words "except that of sending delegates, to the General Conference."

Proposed amendment laid on the table.

On motion of W. Cooper, the amendment was laid on the table, and the section was adopted.

L. B. Gurley moved to reconsider the vote by which the report of the committee concerning the Boundaries of the North Ohio and Delaware Conferences was adopted.

Motion to reconsider in relation to Boundaries of North Ohio Conference. Laid on the table.

On motion of J. Cunningham, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table by a vote of 94 to 25.

Conference proceeded to consider the Report of the Committee on Boundaries in relation to the German work, and after the first item was read and agreed to,

German work.

On motion of Cyrus Brooks, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the North Ohio and Michigan Districts of the German work be allowed to meet in connection with the Cincinnati Conference, at its session next ensuing.

The Second, Third, and Fourth Sections relating to the German work were read and adopted.

On motion, the vote adopting the Third Section was reconsidered, and on motion of John Kisling, the following substitute was adopted, namely :

The German work now connected with the Southeastern Indiana Conference shall remain connected with that Conference.

The Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Sections were read and adopted.

On motion of J. D. Blain, the report of the committee was amended by adding to the German work a Ninth Section as follows, namely :

9. The German Missions in California are to belong to the California Conference.

On motion of William Nast, the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the preachers of the St. Louis and Belleville German Districts be permitted to meet with the Illinois Conference at their next session.

May 31, 1856.

The committee submitted as a part of their report the following resolutions :

New Hampshire and Vermont Conferences may unite.

1. *Resolved*, That the Bishop presiding at the next session of the New-Hampshire and Vermont Conferences respectively, be requested to present the question of a reunion of these two conferences for the action of each ; and if a majority of each of them shall so determine, the two conferences shall thereafter be one, under the name of the New-Hampshire Conference.

2. *Resolved*, That this General Conference consent that the New-Jersey and Newark Conferences shall hold their next session together, according to their request.

3. *Resolved*, That we deem it inexpedient to publish a map of our several conference territories.

4. *Resolved*, That Orange Chapel be transferred from the Delaware Conference, and be attached to the Cincinnati Conference, and that Plattville be transferred from the Cincinnati Conference, and attached to the Delaware Conference.

These resolutions were severally adopted, and the report as a whole was adopted.

[For full Report, see *Appendix BB.*]

Report on Missions taken up.

John P. Durbin moved for a further suspension of the order of the day for the purpose of taking up the Report of the Committee on Missions. The motion prevailed, and Conference proceeded to consider so much of the report as relates to a Missionary Bishop for Africa.

Bishops requested to Communicate their views.

On motion of J. P. Durbin, the Bishops were requested to communicate to the Conference their views of the matter under consideration, if they desired so to do.

Motion to adopt the substitute. Substitute laid on the table.

The report of the committee and the substitute offered by H. Bangs were both read, and H. Bangs moved that the substitute be adopted.

On motion of W. B. Disbro, the substitute was laid on the table.

W. Graham moved that the first resolution of the report be adopted.

Vote on the first resolution to be taken by yeas and nays.

John A. Collins moved that the vote on the adoption of the resolution be taken by yeas and nays ; and the call being sustained by the requisite number, the vote was taken as follows, namely :

Yeas.

*Yeas.*—Allen of Maine, Baird, Baker, Bannister, Barnes, Bennett, Berry, Bewley, Bingham, Blain, Blake, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brouse, Brown of Baltimore, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of East Genesee, Buck of Illinois, Burlingham, Burns, Carlton, Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of Wyoming, Coats, Collins of Baltimore, Collins of Michigan, Cooke,

May 31, 1856.

Coombe, Cooper, Corrington, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crewes, Crooks, Crowel, Dana, Dempster, Disbro, Dodge, Drummond, Durbin, Erwin, Farrington, Felch, Finley, Flower, Fowble, French, Goheen, Gorrie, Graham, Gregg, Grffin of Troy, Griffith, Griswold, Gurley, Hall, Hamilton, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Heath, Hibbard, Hill of Indiana, Hill of Erie, Hirst, Hitchcock, Hodgson, Holliday, Hosmer, Howard, Hoyt, Hulburt, Jamison, Kennaday, Kenney, Kidder, King of New-York, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Kinsley, Kisling, Knox, Lanahan, Leihy, Lemon, Lenhart, Livesey, M'Clintock, Marcy, Martin of Western Virginia, Merwin, Moffatt, Morey, Nast, Osbon, Parks of Troy, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Oregon, Peck, Phelps, Pilcher of Michigan, Pilcher of North Ohio, Pillsbury, Poe, Poisal, Porter of New-England, Porter of New-Jersey, Power, Pratt, Quigley, Reddy, Reed of Iowa, Reid of New-York East, Reese, Requa, Rice of New-England, Roberts, Roberston, Rust, Ruter, Rutledge, Sanderson, Sipp, Sargent, Simonds, Slicer, Smith of New-Hampshire, Smith of Indiana, Summers, Starks, Starr, Stallard, Stanton, Swaim, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thompson of Philadelphia, Thurston, Trimble, Trotter, Van Cleve, Waite, Washburn, Watson, Webster, Whedon, Wilmer, Wilson of Baltimore, Wither-spoon, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, Young of Cincinnati—159.

*Nays.*—Allyn of Southern Illinois, Bangs, Beach, Brooks of Iowa, Cartwright, Chivington, Clark of New-York, Cunningham, Floy, Gillet, Griffen of New-York, Hopkins, Lewis, M'Combs, Martin of Baltimore, Morgan, Nichols, Perry, Rice of New-York, Talbot, Thayer, Thomson of North Ohio, Triplett, Van Deusen, Walker, Wallace, Young of Ohio—27.

*Absentees.*—Barker, Battelle, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Troy, Button, Coggeshall, Connell, Conrey, Culver, Dennis, Dimmitt, Dustin, Evans, Henderson, Hull, Kuhl, Lauck, Lowrey, Luccock, Mattison, Monroe, Mulfinger, Pearne of Wyoming, Phillips, Randall, Raymond, Stevens, Wakefield, Watts, Wheeler, Wilson of Erie—34.

H. R. Clark moved, that absent members have leave to record their votes at any time during the session.

On motion of J. Cunningham, the motion of H. R. Clark was laid on the table.

Motion to allow absentees to record their vote.  
Laid on the table.

May 31, 1856.  
Bishops requested to present the resolution to the Annual Conferences for concurrence.

On motion, the Bishops were respectfully requested to present the resolution just adopted to the several Annual Conferences for their concurrence; and the Secretary was directed to furnish them severally with copies of the resolution, together with a certified copy of the action of this Conference in relation thereto.

On motion of John P. Durbin, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Bishops authorized to ascertain the vote and to act under it.

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and they are hereby authorized to ascertain the vote of the several Annual Conferences on this recommendation of the General Conference; and if they find the requisite majority in favor of the measure set forth in the resolution, then they are hereby authorized to act under its authority if necessary.

The second resolution of the report was read.

Motion to postpone the second resolution indefinitely.

E. H. Pilcher moved that its further consideration be indefinitely postponed; but the motion did not prevail.

Resolution amended.

On motion of J. P. Durbin, the resolution was amended, by inserting, after the words "to elect," the words "by a vote of two thirds of all the members of the said Conference;" and on motion of H. Slicer, it was further amended by inserting after the words "who are hereby authorized," the words "with the concurrence of his or their colleagues."

Previous question ordered.

J. D. Blain moved that the vote on the resolution be taken without further debate, and 106 voted in favor of the motion, and 23 against it.

Call of Conference—quorum present.

As a quorum did not vote, a call of the Conference was ordered, and it appeared that there was a quorum present.

A doubt was expressed whether there was a quorum present when the vote ordering the previous question was taken.

Vote taken a second time.

Whereupon the vote was again taken, and the call for the previous question was sustained by a vote of 133 to 19, and the resolution as amended was adopted by a vote of 121 to 24.

The resolutions relating to Missionary Bishops were adopted in words following, to wit:

Missionary Bishop.

1. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the several Annual Conferences to alter the Discipline, paragraph 3, section 2, Part I, by adding the words, after the word "superintendency," in the fourth line, "but may appoint a Missionary Bishop or Superintendent for any of our foreign missions, limiting his episcopal jurisdiction to the same respectively."

Liberia Annual Conference authorized to elect a Bishop.

2. *Resolved*, That we recommend and authorize the Liberia Annual Conference, under the direction of the Bishop having episcopal charge of said conference at present, assisted by the Corresponding Secretary, to elect, by a vote of two thirds of all the members of the said conference, an elder in good standing in the



Methodist Episcopal Church, and present him for ordination to the Bishops, or any of them, who are hereby authorized, with the concurrence of his or their colleagues, to ordain such persons so elected; certifying in the parchment of ordination that his episcopal jurisdiction is expressly limited to Africa. Nevertheless, the said Liberia Conference shall be under the general supervision of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as our foreign missions now are;

May 31, 1856.

*Provided*, That our Bishops, or any of them, shall not ordain any man a Bishop for Africa until after the concurrence of the several Annual Conferences shall have been obtained, as provided in the first resolution.

On motion of J. P. Durbin, the further consideration of the Report of the Committee on Missions was laid on the table.

Report laid on the table.

James Floy, Chairman of the Committee on the Tract Cause, submitted a report proposing sundry alterations in the Discipline.

Report on the Tract Cause.

It was read, and lies on the table under the rule.

Lies over under the rule.

James Floy, as Chairman of the Special Committee, to whom was referred the subject of publishing a cheap Commentary on the Holy Scriptures, presented a report, and, on motion of J. P. Durbin, it was adopted, as follows:

Report on publishing a cheap Commentary.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of publishing a Commentary on the Holy Scriptures respectfully report:

That having considered the propositions contained in the memorials of Samuel Williams, Esq., and the Rev. George Coles, they are of opinion that, desirable as such a commentary may be, it does not fall within the province of this General Conference imperatively to require its preparation, and therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution, to wit:

*Resolved*, That the subject of preparing and publishing a commentary on the Bible be referred to the Editor of the Books of our General Catalogue, in conjunction with the Book Agents and the Book Committee at New-York.

Your committee have also considered the letter from the Rev. George Coles, on the subject of a Concordance of the Bible; on the subject of a series of questions on the Book of Proverbs; and on the subject of preparing select extracts from the Bible for family reading, and recommend that these matters also be referred to our Editors and Agents at New-York.

John A. Collins moved to reconsider the vote by which the foregoing report was adopted; but the motion to reconsider was laid on the table by a vote of 85 to 61.

Motion to reconsider. Lost.

A motion to adjourn was lost.

Motion to adjourn. Lost.

On motion of E. Thomson, the Report of the Committee on Education, relating to Biblical Institutes, was taken up, read, and its further consideration made the order of the day for Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Report on Biblical Institutes read.

Conference adjourned; benediction by J. H. Perry.

Adjournment.

June 2, 1856.

## MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 2, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Baker in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by Minor Raymond, of the New-England Conference.

The Journal of Saturday afternoon was read and approved.

Motion to take  
up Report on  
Trials and Ap-  
peals.  
Lost.

James Porter moved to suspend the regular order of business in order to take up the Report of the Committee on Trials and Appeals; but the motion did not prevail.

Report from  
Tract Commit-  
tee on publish-  
ing Anti-  
Slavery matter.  
Amendment  
proposed.

James Floy, Chairman of the Committee on the Tract Cause, presented a report in relation to the publication in tract or book form, of anti-slavery matter.

S. V. Blake moved to amend the report by inserting after the word "form," in the resolution, the words, "at their discretion," and by striking out the words, "as the subject of Slavery may demand," and inserting in their stead the words, "as the wants of the Church may demand."

Amendment  
laid on the ta-  
ble.

On motion of R. S. Rust, the motion to amend was laid on the table.

Motion to post-  
pone indefi-  
nitely.

Thomas J. Quigley moved that the report be indefinitely postponed.

Yeas and nays  
demanded.

On motion of W. L. Harris, it was ordered that the vote on the indefinite postponement be taken by yeas and nays.

The roll of Conference was called, and the vote was as follows:

**Ayes.**

*Ayes.*—Allyn of Southern Illinois, Bangs, Battelle, Bewley, Blake, Brown of Baltimore, Cartwright, Chivington, Collins of Baltimore, Coombe, Cooper, Corrington, Cunningham, Drummond, Durbin, Felch, Goheen, Griffith, Hamilton, Hirst, Hodgson, Hopkins, Kennaday, King of New-York, Lanahan, Lauck, Lewis, M'Clintock, M'Combs, Martin of Western Virginia, Martin of Baltimore, Morgan, Osbon, Peck, Pilcher of North Ohio, Poisal, Power, Quigley, Reese, Rice of New-York, Robertson, Ruter, Rutledge, Sargent, Slicer, Summers, Swaim, Talbott, Thompson of Philadelphia, Triplett, Wallace, Wilson of Baltimore, Young of Ohio—53.

**Nays.**

*Nays.*—Allen of Maine, Baird, Baker, Bannister, Beach, Bennett, Berry, Bingham, Blain, Blakeslee, Bowers, Boyd of Northwestern Indiana, Bradford, Bristol, Brockway, Brooks of Cincinnati, Brooks of Iowa, Brouse, Brown of New-Jersey, Buck of East Genesee, Burlingham, Burns,

Carpenter, Chamberlayne, Clark of New-York, Clark of Wyoming, Collins of Michigan, Cooke, Cox, Crary, Crawford, Crews, Crowel, Dana, Dempster, Dennis, Disbro, Dodge, Erwin, Farrington, Finley, Flower, Floy, French, Gillet, Gorrie, Graham, Gregg, Griffen of New-York, Griffin of Troy, Griswold, Gurley, Hall, Haney, Harris, Hawkins, Heath, Henderson, Hibbard, Hill of Indiana, Hitchcock, Holliday, Hosmer, Howard, Hoyt, Hulburd, Jamison, Kenney, Kidder, King of Vermont, Kingsley of Erie, Kingsley of Genesee, Kisling, Knox, Kuhl, Leihy, Lemon, Lenhart, Livesey, Marcy, Mattison, Merwin, Moffat, Morey, Nichols, Parks of Troy, Pearne of Oregon, Perry, Phelps, Pilcher of Michigan, Pillsbury, Poe, Porter of New-England, Pratt, Randall, Raymond, Reddy, Reed of Iowa, Reid of New-York East, Requa, Rice of New-England, Roberts, Rust, Sanderson, Sapp, Simonds, Smith of New-Hampshire, Smith of Indiana, Stallard, Starks, Starr, Stanton, Thayer, Thompson of Northwestern Indiana, Thomson of North Ohio, Thurston, Trimble, Trotter, Van Deusen, Waite, Walker, Washburn, Watson, Watts, Webster, Whedon, Wilmer, Witherspoon, Wood, Worthington, Yocum, Young of Cincinnati—132.

June 2, 1856.

*Absentees.*—Barker, Barnes, Boyd of Pittsburgh, Brown of Cincinnati, Brown of Troy, Buck of Illinois, Button, Carlton, Coats, Coggeshall, Connell, Conrey, Crooks, Culver, Dimmit, Dustin, Evans, Fowble, Hill of Erie, Hull, Kinsley, Lowrey, Luccock, Monroe, Mulfinger, Nast, Parks of Oneida, Pearne of Wyoming, Phillips, Porter of New-Jersey, Stevens, Van Cleve, Wakefield, Wheeler, Wilson of Erie—35.

*Absentees.*

And the motion to indefinitely postpone the report was lost.

Motion to postpone lost.

B. M. Hall moved that the vote on the main question be taken without further debate; but the motion was lost by a vote of 73 to 93.

Call for the previous question not sustained.

John A. Collins moved to amend the resolution by striking out the word "instructed," and inserting instead thereof the words "requested at their discretion."

Proposed amendment.

On motion of W. Cooper, Conference determined to take the vote without further debate.

Call for the previous question sustained.

The amendment was lost by a vote of 65 to 104.

Amendment lost.

H. Mattison moved that the vote on the adoption of the resolution be taken by yeas and nays; but the motion was not sustained by the requisite number, only 18 voting for it.

Call for the yeas and nays not sustained.

June 2, 1856.  
Report adopted.

The report was adopted in words following, to wit:

The Tract Committee, having had under consideration the publication of Anti-slavery Literature, recommend for adoption the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents and Tract Secretary be, and they hereby are, instructed to publish, in tract or book form, such anti-slavery matter as the subject of Slavery may demand, including Mr. Wesley's Thoughts on Slavery.

Report relating  
to the Rituals  
of the Church.

John M'Clintock, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals, presented a report in relation to the Rituals of the Church, and in relation to sundry other changes in the Discipline.

Lies over under  
the rule.  
Report relating  
to Biblical In-  
stitutes taken  
up.

It was read, and lies on the table under the rule.

On motion of L. Hitchcock, the Report of the Committee on Education, relating to Biblical Institutes, was taken up, and the resolutions were considered in their order.

The first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth resolutions and the preamble were severally read and adopted.

Report adopted.

The report as a whole was then adopted in words following, to wit:

The Committee on Education have had under consideration the subject of *Biblical Institutes*, and beg leave to report in relation thereto the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That this General Conference reject all institutional means for ministerial education which assume the sufficiency of merely educational qualifications for the sacred office, and most strenuously require that no candidate for that office be admitted to our Biblical Institutes and departments for ministerial training, without a certificate from the quarterly or annual conference of its belief that he is Divinely called to the ministry.

2. *Resolved*, That the General Conference looks with approval on those Biblical departments which are in connection with our colleges, and which may hereafter be established in such connection, and upon our Biblical Institutes, which now do, and hereafter may exist separately for the education of such candidates; provided, always, that both these classes of ministerial institutions be encompassed with guards sufficient to protect them from heresy in doctrine and error in discipline.

3. *Resolved*, That for the efficiency of this protective purpose the General Conference deems it indispensable that the trustees of such institutions be all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and that at least one annual conference have the chartered right to supply all the occurring vacancies in such boards, and to have the acknowledged right to procure the prompt removal from the institution of any teacher or teachers whose instructions shall not harmonize with either the doctrines or the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

4. *Resolved*, That the General Conference would regard with decided disapproval every attempt to multiply greatly these institutions among us, as this could have no tendency but to enfeeble their salutary influence and to exhaust the means of the Church, which should be otherwise applied.

5. *Resolved*, That Trustees of Biblical Institutes be required to report annually to the annual conferences patronizing them, and quadrennially to the General Conference.



6. *Resolved*, That the General Conference request the Superintendents to act as an Advisory Committee, to counsel the Trustees of the Garrett Biblical Institute, in accordance with the suggestions of the said Trustees, and that they also act as an Advisory Committee for such other Biblical Institutes as may exist in accordance with the provisions of the above resolutions.

June 2, 1856.

B. M. Hall, Chairman of the special committee appointed to nominate Candidates from whom delegates shall be chosen to represent the Methodist Episcopal Church in the English and Canada Wesleyan Conferences, in A. D. 1857, presented the following report :

Report of nominating Committee.

1. For the ENGLISH WESLEYAN CONFERENCE,

George Peck,	John M'Clintock,
John P. Durbin,	Edward Thomson,
Joseph M. Trimble,	Davis W. Clark.

Candidates for Delegates to British Wesleyan Conference.

2. For the CANADA WESLEYAN CONFERENCE,

Tobias Spicer,	John S. Porter,
Charles Elliot,	Calvin Kingsley,
William Hamilton,	Daniel Wise,
Gardner Baker,	Enoch G. Wood,
Lucien W. Berry.	

Candidates for Delegates to Canada Wesleyan Conference.

On motion of W. D. R. Trotter, Conference resolved to meet this afternoon at two o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

H. Bangs moved to suspend the order of the day for the purpose of introducing resolutions, fixing the time, order, and mode of the Elections; and also providing for committees to nominate the Book Committees for New-York and Cincinnati.

Motion to suspend the regular order of business to fix a time for the Elections.

John D. Blain moved to lay the motion to suspend on the table; but the motion was lost, and the original motion was carried; and a series of resolutions introduced accordingly.

Motion to lay on the table. Lost.

David Burns moved to strike out of the first resolution the words "this afternoon, immediately after the reading of the Journal," and insert the words "nine o'clock to-morrow morning."

Proposed amendment.

B. M. Hall moved so to amend the amendment as to make the elections the order of the day for two o'clock in the afternoon of to-morrow.

Amendment to the amendment.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, both amendments were laid on the table.

Laid on the table.

H. R. Clark moved the following substitute for so much

Substitute proposed.

June 2, 1856. of the first resolution as fixes the order of the elections indicated in the substitute itself.

1. The Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.  
The Editor of the Western Christian Advocate.  
The Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.  
The Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate.  
The Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.  
The Editor of the German Apologist.  
The Editor of the National Magazine.  
The Editor of the Ladies' Repository.  
The Editor of the Quarterly Review.
2. The Agents of the Book Concern, New-York and Cincinnati.
3. The Book Committees for the Book Concerns at New-York and Cincinnati.
4. Corresponding Secretaries of the Missionary, Sunday School, and Tract Societies.

Substitute laid on the table. On motion of John A. Collins, the substitute was laid on the table.

Amendment. On motion, the second resolution was amended by striking out all after the word "business."

Resolutions adopted. The resolutions, as amended, were then adopted, as follows:

1. *Resolved*, That the election of Agents, Editors, and Book Committees be made the order of the day for this afternoon, immediately after the reading of the Journal; and that the order of elections be as follows:

1. The Book Agents at New-York,
2. The Book Agents at Cincinnati.
3. The Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal.
4. The Editor of the Western Christian Advocate.
5. The Editor of the Quarterly Review and Books of the General Catalogue.
6. The Editor of Sunday-School Publications.
7. The Editor of the National Magazine and Tracts,
8. The Editor of the Ladies' Repository.
9. The Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society.
10. The Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.
11. The Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.
12. The Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate.
13. The Editor of the German Publications.
14. The Book Committee at New-York.
15. The Book Committee at Cincinnati.

2. *Resolved*, That in the election of Book Committees and all other cases, where but one candidate is nominated for an office, it shall be by an open vote in the Conference. But in case two or more candidates are nominated for the same office, the voting shall be by ballot. The tellers, when the votes are gathered, shall retire with one of the Secretaries, and count the votes; the Conference meantime proceeding with its business.

Committee to nominate Book Committees. Ordered. 3. *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to nominate a Book Committee for the Book Concern at New-York, and that a like number be appointed to nominate a Book Committee for the Western Book Concern, at Cincinnati.

John P. Durbin and thirty-six others moved the following resolution, namely :

June 2, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the next session of the General Conference shall commence on the first day of May, A.D. 1861, and shall be held every four years thereafter, commencing on the first day of May.

Resolution to fix the time of the next General Conference May 1, 1861. Referred.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Revisals.

John Kennaday moved to suspend the order of the day, for the purpose of introducing the Reply to the Address of the Congregational Union of England and Wales ; but the motion to suspend was laid on the table.

Motion to suspend the order. Laid on the table.

H. Buck moved, that the consideration of the report concerning the Pacific Christian Advocate, the Central Christian Advocate, and the California Christian Advocate, be made the special order of the day for this afternoon, immediately after reading the Journal: subject, however, to the order fixed by the resolutions relating to the elections ; and the motion was carried.

Report relating to the Pacific, Central, and California Advocates the special order for this afternoon.

On motion of John M'Clintock, the Report of the Committee on Revisals, presented May 10th, was taken up, and the various items considered in their order, and adopted as follows, namely :

Report of Committee on Revisals taken up and adopted.

The Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business beg leave to report in part,

1. That having duly considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the ratio of Representation in the General Conference, the committee recommend the insertion of the words "Twenty-seven," in place of "Twenty-one," in Part I, chap. iii, sec. 2, ans. 1, of the Book of Discipline.

Discipline changed. Ratio of Representation.

The committee also recommend the alteration of the second *Restrictive* Rule, (on page 33,) so as to insert "one for every forty-five," in place of "one for every thirty."

Proposition to change the Restrictive Rule.

2. The committee having duly considered the memorial of the New-England Conference, referred to them in respect to Part I, chap. v, sec. 4, page 81 of the Discipline, entitled, "*Of the Band Societies*," recommend that the said sec. 4, page 81, be struck out, and also that the word "band" or "bands," and all allusions thereto, be struck out from every other part of the Discipline.

Discipline changed in relation to Bands.

3. The committee having duly considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the call of an extra session of the General Conference, recommend the insertion of the following in Part I, ch. iii, sec. 2, in place of our present provision for calling an extra session of the General Conference :

Discipline changed in relation to an Extra Session of the General Conference.

"But the General Superintendents, or a majority of them, by or with the advice of two thirds of all the Annual Conferences, or, if there be no General Superintendent, two thirds of all the Annual Conferences, shall have power to call an extra session of the General Conference at any time, to be constituted in the usual way."

June 2, 1856.  
Restrictive Rule  
changed.

The proposition to change the Second Restrictive Rule was adopted by a vote of more than two thirds of all the members of the General Conference in its favor.

Adjournment.

Conference adjourned.

Benediction by W. H. Collins.

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Ames in the chair.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

D. Wise has  
permission to  
record his vote.

On motion, Daniel Wise was permitted to record his vote on the resolution proposing a change of the General Rule on Slavery, and he voted in favor of the resolution.

J. L. Thompson, seconded by H. Mattison, moved the following resolutions, namely :

Resolution in  
relation to  
limiting the  
Term of Service  
of a Bishop,  
and to Quad-  
rennial Elec-  
tion of Bishops.  
Ordination of  
Bishops.

1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the Committee on Revisals be, and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the expedience of limiting the term of service of the bishops hereafter to four years, the same bishops being eligible to reelection.

2. *Resolved*, And that whether the ordination of bishops is not incompatible with the doctrine of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which from the beginning has maintained that there are but two Scriptural Orders known among the ministry, and should therefore be dispensed with in connection with the office of General Superintendent.

Laid on the  
table.

On motion of W. Cooper, the resolutions were laid on the table.

William Young, seconded by William Nast, moved the following Resolution, and it was adopted, namely :

Plan of Study  
for the German  
Preachers to be  
published in  
the German  
Discipline.

*Resolved*, That the plan of study authorized for the German Traveling Preachers and German Local Preachers, be published in the German edition of the Discipline.

Bishop Baker announced the following committees, namely :

Committee to  
nominate Book  
Committee for  
New-York.

Committee to nominate the Book Committee for the New-York Book Concern :

P. Rice,

L. Crowel,

S. D. Brown,

J. A. Collins,

F. Hodgson.

Committee to  
nominate Book  
Committee for  
Cincinnati.

Committee to nominate the Book Committee for the Cincinnati Book Concern :

P. Cartwright,

E. G. Wood,

U. Heath,

C. Brooks,

H. S. Talbot.



The special order of the day, namely, the elections as prescribed by resolution of this morning, was taken up,

And on nomination of P. Rice, Thomas Carlton was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Agent of the Book Concern at New-York for four years.

The chair appointed J. M. Trimble, R. S. Rust, H. Kinsley, and H. Crews Tellers, and Conference proceeded to ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York.

The ballot was cast, and the Tellers, with James Hill, Assistant Secretary, retired to count the votes.

George W. Walker moved to suspend the order of the day for a special purpose, but the motion was lost.

The Report of the Book Committee was taken up, and so much as relates to the Book Depository and Pacific Advocate in Oregon was read. Pending its consideration, the first resolution was amended by striking out the words "as soon as practicable," and the resolutions were adopted in their order; and the report as a whole was adopted as follows, namely :

The Committee on the Book Concern have had under consideration the papers referred to them relating to a Depository of Books and the publication of a weekly paper in Oregon Territory, and report for the action of the General Conference the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be directed to establish a Book Depository, and publish a weekly paper in Oregon Territory.

2. *Resolved*, That we advise the Book Agents at New-York to purchase, at a cost not exceeding three thousand five hundred dollars, (\$3,500,) the publishing office already established, and continue the publication of the Pacific Christian Advocate.

3. *Resolved*, That the Oregon Conference be directed to appoint a committee of five, who shall have power to fix the salary of the editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate, audit his accounts, and have a general oversight of his editorial conduct, make an annual report of the same to the Oregon Conference and to the Book Agents at New-York.

So much of the report as relates to the Book Depository and Central Christian Advocate at St. Louis was read.

On motion of Peter Cartwright, the first resolution was amended by striking out the words, "so soon as the agents are assured that a list of paying subscribers has been obtained amounting to at least six thousand subscribers." And the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The second resolution was amended by inserting the word "heretofore" between the words "Paper" and "published," and the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced

June 2, 1856.

Elections taken up.

T. Carlton elected Book Agent at New-York.

Tellers appointed.

First ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York.

Motion to suspend the order of the day.

Lost.

Report of the Book Committee taken up.

Amendment.

Report adopted.

Pacific Christian Advocate established.

Oregon Conference to appoint a Publishing Committee.

Report relating to the Central Christian Advocate taken up.

Amendment.

June 2, 1856.  
Result of first  
ballot for As-  
sistant Book  
Agent at New-  
York.

the result of the first ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York, as follows: The whole number of votes cast was 212: necessary to a choice, 107. James Porter received 97; Benjamin Griffen received 67; George F. Brown received 23; Moses Hill received 21; scattering 4. As no one received a majority of all the votes cast, the chair announced that there was no election. A second ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York was cast, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

No election.  
A second ballot  
cast.

The Report of the Book Committee in relation to the Book Depository and Central Advocate at St. Louis was adopted as follows, namely:

Central Chris-  
tian Advocate  
established.

The committee have had under consideration the papers referred to them relating to a Book Depository at St. Louis, also the publication of a Paper at said place, and present for the action of the General Conference the following resolutions:

Depository at  
St. Louis of  
Sunday-school  
books and Ger-  
man publica-  
tions.

1. *Resolved*, That the Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and they are hereby instructed to establish a member of the Advocate family, to be called the Central Christian Advocate, at St. Louis.

2. *Resolved*, That the Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and they are hereby instructed to establish at St. Louis a Depository of our Sunday-school and German publications.

3. *Resolved*, That, in view of the circumstances, we do not deem it expedient to instruct the Agents to assume any liabilities of the Paper heretofore published at St. Louis, but would leave it wholly to the judgment of the Agents to purchase the materials if they think proper.

Result of the  
second ballot  
for Assistant  
Book Agent at  
New-York.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the second ballot for Assistant Book Agent at New-York as follows: The whole number of votes cast was 210 necessary to a choice, 106. James Porter received 114, Benjamin Griffen received 65, Moses Hill received 18, and George F. Brown received 13. James Porter having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared duly elected Assistant Book Agent at New-York for the next four years.

James Porter  
elected.

L. Swormstedt  
elected Book  
Agent at Cin-  
cinnati.

Leroy Swormstedt was, by a hand vote, unanimously chosen Agent of the Western Book Concern at Cincinnati for four years.

Ballot for Assist-  
ant Book  
Agent at Cin-  
cinnati.  
Committee on  
Book Concern  
report.

A ballot was cast for Assistant Book Agent of the Western Book Concern, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, submitted a further report.

Result of the  
Ballot for As-  
sistant Book  
Agent at Cin-  
cinnati.

Pending its consideration, the Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati as follows: Whole number of votes cast 206: necessary to a choice, 104. Adam Poe received 116, Luke Hitchcock received 82, and

John A. Brouse received 8. A. Poe having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared duly elected Assistant Agent of the Western Book Concern for the next four years.

June 2, 1856.  
A. Poe elected.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Ballot cast for Editor of Advocate and Journal.  
Report of Book Committee resumed.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

Motion to amend.

John Dempster moved so to amend the report that it shall be the duty of the Book Agents at Cincinnati to advance to W. D. R. Trotter, one half the sum of his indebtedness, as specified in the resolution.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot as follows: Whole number of votes cast was 207: necessary to a choice, 104. Abel Stevens received 136; F. G. Hibbard received 66; and George Peck received 5. Abel Stevens, having received a majority of all the votes, was declared duly elected Editor of the Christian Advocate and Journal for the next four years.

Result of the ballot.

Abel Stevens elected.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Western Christian Advocate, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Ballot for Editor of the Western Christian Advocate.  
Report resumed

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the Western Christian Advocate as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 207: necessary to a choice, 104. Calvin Kingsley received 116; Charles Elliot received 73; B. F. Crary received 20; scattering 2.

Result of the ballot.

C. Kingsley, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the Western Christian Advocate for four years.

Calvin Kingsley elected.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Methodist Quarterly Review, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Ballot for Editor of the Quarterly Review, &c.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

Report resumed

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the Quarterly Review and Books of the General Catalogue as follows, namely:

Result of the ballot.

Whole number of votes cast, 207: necessary to a choice, 104. D. D. Whedon received 108; John M'Clintock received 99. Daniel D. Whedon, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the

Daniel D. Whedon elected.

- June 2, 1856. Methodist Quarterly Review and of the Books of the General Catalogue for the next four years.
- Ballot for Editor of Sunday-School Publications. A ballot was cast for Editor of Sunday-School Publications, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.
- Evening session. On motion of B. F. Crary, Conference agreed to meet at 8 o'clock this evening.
- Amendment to Report of Committee on the Book Concern. Laid on the table. On motion of John S. Porter, the amendment of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern, proposed by John Dempster, was laid on the table by a vote of 103 to 51.
- Report as a whole adopted. The resolution was adopted, and the report as a whole was adopted as follows :
- The Committee on the Book Concern have had under consideration the memorial of W. D. R. Trotter, as also documents from the Publishing Committee of the Central Christian Advocate, relative to the indebtedness of Brother Trotter as editor and publisher of said paper, and asking this General Conference to meet said indebtedness.
- The committee recommend for adoption the following resolution :
- Resolved*, That in order to assist in the liquidation of a debt of seven thousand two hundred and sixty-four dollars and twenty-five cents, (\$7,264 25) resting upon Rev. W. D. R. Trotter as editor and publisher of the Central Christian Advocate, that the Book Agents at Cincinnati be, and are hereby instructed to appropriate for the coming four years, all the profits of the paper which we have recommended to be published at St. Louis, to Rev. W. D. R. Trotter, not exceeding the above-named amount.
- W. D. R. Trotter has leave to address the Conference. On motion, W. D. R. Trotter had permission to address the Conference in relation to the interests and condition of the Central Christian Advocate.
- Result of the ballot. The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the Sunday-School Publications as follows :
- Daniel Wise elected. Whole number of votes cast, 202 : necessary to a choice, 102. Daniel Wise received 123 ; A. M. Osbon received 61 ; D. P. Kidder received 17 ; and F. G. Hibbard 1. Daniel Wise, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected editor of the Sunday-School Publications for four years.
- Motion to postpone the election of Editor of National Magazine. Laid on the table. Stephen Allen moved that the election of Editor for the National Magazine and Tracts be postponed till to-morrow. The motion to postpone was laid on the table.
- Ballot for Editor of the National Magazine. A ballot was cast for Editor of the National Magazine and Tracts, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.
- Report concern- George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book



Concern, presented a report relating to the California Christian Advocate, and it was read.

J. D. Blain moved to amend the first resolution of the report by inserting after the word "Paper," the words, "and to establish a Book Depository;" and the motion to amend prevailed.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the National Magazine and Tracts as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 208: necessary to a choice, 105. James Floy received 124; James H. Perry received 79; scattering 5. James Floy having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected editor of the National Magazine and Tracts for four years.

Davis W. Clark was unanimously, by a hand vote, elected Editor of the Ladies' Repository, and of the Books of the General Catalogue, at the Western Book Concern, for four years.

A ballot was cast for Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society as follows, namely: Whole number of votes cast, 209; necessary to a choice, 105. John P. Durbin received 123; Minor Raymond received 86. John P. Durbin having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society for four years.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was continued.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 212: necessary to a choice, 107. F. G. Hibbard received 118, and W. Hosmer 94. F. G. Hibbard, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate for four years.

Isaac N. Baird was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate for four years.

June 2, 1856.  
ing the California Christian Advocate.  
First resolution amended.

Result of the ballot.

James Floy elected.

D. W. Clark elected Editor of Ladies' Repository.

Ballot for Secretary of the Missionary Society.

Report resumed.

Result of the ballot.

John P. Durbin elected.

Ballot for Editor of the Northern Christian Advocate.

Report resumed.

Result of the ballot.

F. G. Hibbard elected.

I. N. Baird elected Editor of Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

June 2, 1856.  
Ballot for Editor  
of the North-  
western Chris-  
tian Advocate.  
Report resumed.

Result of the  
ballot.

James V. Wat-  
son elected.

W. Nast elected  
German Editor.

Adjournment.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was resumed.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot for Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 204: necessary to a choice, 103. James V. Watson received 132; Thomas M. Eddy received 69; scattering 3. James V. Watson, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate for four years.

William Nast was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Editor of the Christian Apologist, and of the German publications at the Western Book Concern for four years.

On motion of W. H. Brockway, Conference adjourned. Benediction by Benjamin Griffen.

#### MONDAY EVENING.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Waugh in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by D. D. Buck, of the East Genesee Conference.

The Journal of this afternoon was read and approved.

Motion to take  
up the Report  
on Sunday  
Schools.  
Amendment  
proposed.

S. Van Deusen moved to suspend the order of the day to take up the Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools.

John M'Clintock moved to amend so as to take up the Report of the Committee on the Tract Cause.

Substitute for  
the amend-  
ment.

J. D. Blain moved, as a substitute for the amendment, that the motion be so modified that the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern relating to the California Christian Advocate be taken up, should the motion to suspend prevail. The substitute was accepted, the amendment prevailed, and the motion as amended was carried.

Substitute ac-  
cepted, amend-  
ment prevails,  
and motion  
carried.

Amendment  
providing for  
Book Deposi-  
tory at Cali-  
fornia recon-  
sidered and  
withdrawn.

The report having been taken up and read, John D. Blain moved a reconsideration of the amendment adopted this afternoon, providing for a Book Depository, and the motion prevailed. The amendment was then withdrawn.

First resolution  
amended  
and adopted.

H. W. Reed moved to add to the first resolution the words, "And that the said Agents appropriate from the funds of the Book Concern a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars annually for the next four years for the maintenance

of the said Paper." The amendment prevailed, and the resolution as amended was adopted.

June 2, 1856.

The second resolution was read, when, on motion, the resolution was amended by striking out the words, "Provided the cost shall not exceed \$3,500."

Second resolution amended.

The resolution as amended was adopted, and the report as a whole was adopted as follows, namely :

Report adopted.

The Book Committee present the following resolutions relating to a weekly paper in California, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they hereby are, directed to publish a weekly paper in San Francisco, California; and that the said Agents appropriate from the funds of the Book Concern a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars annually, for the next four years, for the maintenance of such paper.

Weekly paper to be published in California.

*Resolved*, That in case a transfer of the California Christian Advocate, now published at San Francisco, can be obtained on reasonable terms, the Book Agents be, and they hereby are, instructed to adopt that paper as a General Conference paper.

N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on the Itinerancy, presented a report in relation to the claim of Reuben Aldridge for services as a missionary. The report, containing the following resolution, was adopted :

Report in case of Reuben Aldridge.

*Resolved*, by the General Conference in Conference assembled, That we recommend to the Parent Board of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to pay to the order of Reuben Aldridge the sum of one hundred dollars, (\$100,) with interest from the time said claim was allowed, namely, the month of October, 1849.

[For full Report, see *Appendix CC*.]

N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report in relation to the Journals of the several Annual Conferences.

Report relating to the Journals of the several Annual Conferences.

Pending the consideration of the report, the first resolution was amended by striking out so much as relates to the recording of the appointments of the preachers in the Conference Journal from year to year.

First Resolution amended.

The report as amended was adopted.

Report adopted.

The resolutions contained in the report were adopted in words following, to wit :

1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the statistics of the Conference should be entered on the Conference Journals.

Resolutions of the report.

2. *Resolved*, That the secretaries of the several Annual Conferences be instructed to observe greater precision in referring to papers, documents, charges, testimony, &c., so that they may be certainly identified.

[For full Report, see *Appendix DD*.]

N. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted the following resolution :

June 2, 1856.  
Resolution concern-  
ing dele-  
gates who may  
accept civil of-  
fice.

*Resolved*, That the following be added to the answer to this question: "Who shall compose the General Conference?" page 32, namely: "Nevertheless, should one thus qualified accept of civil office, he shall thereby be disqualified for a seat in the General Conference; and the disqualification thus incurred shall remain until removed by a vote of the Annual Conference of which he is a member."

Lies over under  
the rule.

This resolution lies on the table under the rule.

Amount of  
money appro-  
priated to con-  
ferences in  
slaveholding  
states.

W. Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, submitted the following as the information desired by the Conference in relation to missionary contributions and missionary appropriations to the conferences in slave territory.

The following information is given to the Conference by the Missionary Committee, at the instance of the Conference.

Appropriations of missionary money to conferences in slave territory, in part or in whole, during the last four years:

Kentucky Conference.....	\$5,450
Missouri Conference.....	17,800
Arkansas Conference.....	10,500
Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Western Virginia for four years.....	30,550

Total appropriations during the last four years 64,300

The same conferences contributed missionary money, during the last four years, to the amount of \$163,301 74, showing an excess of contributions of missionary money by these conferences over the appropriations of missionary money to them of about \$100,000. We think it desirable that the Church will note this.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, submitted a report, providing for Publishing Committees for the Advocates, and also proposing an alteration of the Discipline as follows, namely:

Proposed  
change in the  
Discipline.

Chap. vi, Part III, page 202, strike out the section after the word "practicable," and insert, "they shall also pay one third of the salary and the traveling expenses of the Bishops; and the same proportion of all other appropriations made by the General Conference, not otherwise provided for."

Lies over.

This resolution lies on the table under the rule.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Edu-  
cation.

Lies over.

E. Thomson, Chairman of the Committee on Education, presented a report, and as one of its resolutions proposes a change in the Discipline, it lies on the table under the rule.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the order of business was suspended.

J. S. Porter, seconded by B. F. Crary, moved the following resolution, namely:

Resolution re-  
questing the  
Bishops to state

*Resolved*, That the Bishops be requested to state whether, in their judgment, in view of the number of new Conferences, and of the claims of the work in California and Oregon, the Episco-



pacy needs strengthening at the present session of the General Conference.

Israel Chamberlayne moved to lay the resolution on the table; but the motion did not prevail, and the resolution was adopted.

William Young, seconded by C. Brooks, moved the following resolutions, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That the Book Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and are hereby, authorized to pay a sum not exceeding \$800, for an Assistant Editor for the German Publications.
2. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and are hereby, authorized to appoint to this office a German itinerant preacher, if such a one is nominated or elected by the Book Committee, or, in the absence of the Book Committee, by the Book Agents and Editors of the Western Book Concern.

June 2, 1856.  
whether their number should be increased.  
Motion to lay on the table.  
Lost.  
Resolution adopted.

Resolutions providing for an Assistant Editor for German Publications.

Lie over.

These resolutions lie on the table under the rule.

L. L. Hamline having, through George W. Walker, requested that the letters which were addressed to himself, or his wife, and which were used as testimony in the case of L. D. Harlan, be returned to them; on motion of George W. Walker, the Conference ordered that all the papers used as testimony in the case of L. D. Harlan be returned to the Secretary of the Cincinnati Annual Conference.

Papers in the case of L. D. Harlan returned to the Cincinnati Conference.

George W. Walker presented the following resolution, which lies on the table under the rule, namely:

*Resolved*, That, in view of the intimate relation which our German Publications at Cincinnati bear to the Sabbath-school, Tract, and General English Publications at New-York, as well as to the contemplated German publications in Bremen, by order of the Missionary Board, we recommend the appointment of the German Editor as ex-officio member of the Publishing Committees of the Tract Society, of the Sunday School Union, and of the Missionary Society, so as to allow him, when it is deemed necessary by those having charge of the above-named interests, officially to consult with them in regard to the Books and Tracts which ought to be published in Cincinnati or in Bremen, and for properly selecting and procuring the necessary cuts and other typographical requirements.

Resolution making the German Editor ex-officio member of the Book Committee at New-York.

The Bishops returned the following answer to the inquiry propounded in the resolution offered by James S. Porter, namely:

The Bishops have not heretofore communicated to the Conference any wish in reference to the increase of their number, desiring that the Conference should form its own opinion of the propriety of such a measure. We, however, incline to the opinion that, in view both of our interests on the Pacific coast and our increased number of conferences, it might be prudent to elect an additional

Answer of the Bishops to the inquiry made in the resolution presented by J. S. Porter.

June 2, 1856.

Bishop. We could at present discharge all the duties and give the usual attention to the Pacific; but if increased attention is needed on that coast, it can be given only by a Bishop residing there; and if the health of any one of our number should fail, we might not be able to perform the work expected of us.

Referred.

On motion of H. Bangs, the foregoing answer of the Bishops was referred to the Committee on the Episcopacy.

Report concern-  
ing statistics.  
Lies over under  
the rule.

John M'Clintock, Chairman of the Committee on Revisals, presented a report, providing for more complete church statistics. It was read, and lies on the table under the rule.

Adjournment.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Alfred Griffith.

June 8, 1856.

## TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 3d, 1856.

Conference met this morning; Bishop Morris in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by J. M. Trimble, of the Ohio Conference.

The Journal of last evening was read and approved.

The general order of business was suspended, and on motion of John A. Collins, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Book Agents at  
New-York to  
pay George  
Peck's travel-  
ing expenses,  
&c.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in General Conference assembled, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they are hereby, directed to pay to George Peck, the amount of his traveling expenses from New-York to his place of residence in the Wyoming Conference, and also his salary up to the time of his receiving an appointment in the regular work in said conference.

On motion of B. M. Hall, the regular order was further suspended, and the following resolution was adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they are hereby, instructed to pay to Zebulon Phillips the amount of his moving expenses from New-York to the Troy Conference.

W. Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, presented a reply to the Address of the French Conference to this body. It was read and adopted, and ordered to be printed. [For Reply, see *Appendix I*.]

Address to the  
Church on the  
subject of Mis-  
sions.

W. Hamilton, Chairman of the Committee on Missions, further reported an Address to the Church on the subject of Missions. It was read and adopted, and ordered to be printed. [For the Address, see *Appendix EE*.]

W. Hamilton moved to suspend the order of the day to take up the Report of the Committee on Missions ; but the motion did not prevail.

June 3, 1856.  
Motion to suspend the order.  
Lost.

John Kennaday, Chairman of the Committee on the Episcopacy, submitted the following report, namely :

The Committee on Episcopacy, to whom was referred the response of the Bishops to the inquiry of Rev. J. S. Porter, beg leave to report the following as the result of their deliberations.

Report of Committee on increasing the number of Bishops.

*Resolved*, That we deem it inexpedient to recommend any addition to the number of Bishops.

Pending the consideration of this report, T. J. Quigley moved that the vote on its adoption be taken without further debate. The motion was sustained by a vote of 136 to 15 ; and the report was adopted.

Previous question ordered.

Report adopted.

On motion of D. W. Clark, the regular order of business was suspended by a vote of 108 to 25, to receive the Report of the Committee on Lay Delegation.

Orders suspended

D. W. Clark, Chairman of the Committee on Lay Delegation, presented a report on that subject.

Lay Delegation.

It was read, and the report, containing the following resolution, was adopted.

Report adopted.

*Resolved*, That any change in our economy relating to the constitution of our General and Annual Conferences is inexpedient at the present time.

[For full Report, see *Appendix FF.*]

On motion of J. M'Clintock, the order of the day was further suspended to take up the Report of the Committee on Revisals ; and Conference proceeded to consider the report item by item.

Report on Revisals taken up.  
Changes in Discipline.

The item relating to a provision for changing the place of holding an Annual Conference, and the item in relation to a note on page 210 of the Cincinnati edition of the Discipline, were read and adopted.

Place of holding an Annual Conference.

Note on page 210.

The item relating to dress was read. Pending its consideration, W. Reddy, seconded by A. J. Dana, moved the following substitute, namely :

Dress.

To follow the words, "section 1, chap. viii, Part I," in the report of the committee.

"By all means this is no time to give encouragement to superfluity of dress: 1. Therefore, in the examination of candidates for admission into the Church, particular attention shall be called to our general rule on this subject, and the candidates shall be interrogated in regard to their willingness to conform to the same. 2. Let every one who has charge of a circuit or station, frequently exhort our people to conform to the spirit of the apostolic precept, 'not to adorn themselves with gold, and pearls, and costly array.'" 1 Tim. ii, 9.

Substitute for report relating to Dress.

June 8, 1856.  
 Substitute laid  
 on the table.  
 Motion to lay  
 the item on the  
 table.  
 Lost.  
 Item adopted.  
 Changes in Dis-  
 cipline.

On motion of W. Cooper, the substitute was laid on the table by a vote of 100 to 67.

W. Reddy moved to lay the item on the table; but the motion to lay on the table was lost, and the item adopted.

The items relating to the provision concerning preachers stationed in New-Orleans; the Annual Meeting of District Stewards; the report of the number of churches or houses of worship; striking the word "up" from the phrase "set *up* before them;" the provision giving to Quarterly Conferences power to order a new trial; giving the Quarterly Conferences, instead of the Annual Conferences, power to dispose of moneys arising from the sale of Church property; adding after Gildas Salvianus, the remaining part of the title of the book; the case of superannuated preachers living out of the bounds of the Annual Conference to which they belong; the requirement that the preachers meet the men and women apart in the large societies; taking minutes of a trial before the society or a select number of them; the trial of an appeal before the Quarterly Conference on the minutes thus taken; and the proportion of the salaries and traveling expenses of the Bishops, and of other appropriations, made by the General Conference, to be paid by the Western Book Concern, were severally read and adopted.

On removing  
 the restrictions  
 upon the power  
 of the Bishops.

The recommendation of the Committee to remove the restrictions on the continuance and reappointment of preachers to the same city was read.

Item laid on the  
 table.

John A. Collins moved to lay the item on the table. H. Slicer moved that the vote on the motion to lie on the table be taken by yeas and nays, but the call was not sustained, and the motion to lie on the table prevailed by a vote of 102 to 84.

Vote laying on  
 the table re-  
 considered.

On motion of W. Reddy, the vote laying the item on the table was reconsidered.

Previous ques-  
 tion ordered  
 and item  
 adopted.

On motion, the vote was taken without further debate, and the item as reported was adopted.

New chapter on  
 Singing.  
 Admissions, &c.,  
 to be reported.

The items providing a new chapter on the spirit and truth of Singing, and the item requiring admissions, expulsions, dismissions, withdrawals, and deaths, to be reported to the Quarterly Conferences, were severally read and adopted.

Item relating to  
 Class-Meetings  
 laid on the  
 table.

The item concerning those who neglect attendance on Class-Meetings was, on motion of George Pratt, laid on the table.

Report laid on  
 the table to

On motion of John A. Collins, the Report of the Commit-



tee on Revisals was temporarily laid on the table, in order to proceed with the elections.

June 3, 1856.  
proceed in the  
elections.

The same Tellers and Secretary that acted in the elections yesterday were requested to serve to-day.

Tellers.

A ballot was cast for Editor of the Central Christian Advocate, and the Tellers retired.

First ballot for  
Editor of the  
Central Christian  
Advocate.  
T. H. Pearne  
elected Editor  
of the Pacific  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

On nomination of William Roberts, Thomas H. Pearne was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate.

E. Thomas  
elected Editor  
of the California  
Christian Ad-  
vocate.

On nomination of S. D. Simonds, Eleazer Thomas was, by a hand vote, unanimously elected Editor of the California Christian Advocate.

Assistant Editor  
of German  
publications.

On motion of W. Young, the resolution offered yesterday, providing for an Assistant Editor of German publications, was taken up and adopted as follows :

1. *Resolved*, That the Book Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and are hereby, authorized to pay a sum not exceeding \$800 for an Assistant Editor for the German Publications.

2. *Resolved*, That the Bishops be, and are hereby, authorized to appoint to this office a German itinerant preacher, if such a one is nominated or elected by the Book Committee, or, in the absence of the Book Committee, by the Book Agents and Editors of the Western Book Concern.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Revisals was resumed; and the item providing for statistics was read and adopted.

Report on Re-  
visals resumed.

The item providing for *nine* Circuit Stewards, instead of *seven*, was read.

Change of Dis-  
cipline.

P. Cartwright moved to lay it on the table, but the motion was lost, and the item was adopted.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the first ballot for the Editor of the Central Christian Advocate, as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 188: necessary to a choice, 95. Joseph Brooks received 76; B. F. Crary, 55; C. Elliott, 28; J. H. Power, 26; F. C. Holliday, 3. As no one received a majority of the votes cast, there was no election.

Result of ballot.

No election.

A second ballot was cast, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Second ballot.

On motion of J. M'Clintock, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Editor of the Books at New-York be directed to conform Ans. 9, p. 59, on the Duty of Preachers in Charge, to the change made in Reply 13, p. 36.

Resolution in-  
structing the  
Editor of  
Books.

June 8, 1856.  
Result of the  
ballot.

Joseph Brooks  
elected.

The Tellers came into Conference, and the chair announced the result of the ballot as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 186: necessary to a choice, 95. Joseph Brooks received 114; B. F. Creary 67. Joseph Brooks, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected Editor of the Central Christian Advocate for four years.

Afternoon ses-  
sion.

On motion of H. Bangs, Conference agreed to meet at two o'clock this afternoon.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Re-  
visals resumed.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Revisals was resumed.

Revision of the  
Rituals.

So much of the report as relates to the subject of a Revision of the Rituals of the Church was adopted. The following are the resolutions adopted in the Report of the Committee on Revisals relating to the Rituals:

1. *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the chair to revise the Rituals of our Church.

2. *Resolved*, That this committee be instructed to prepare a circular at their earliest meeting, in which all the points involved in the proposed revision shall be stated, and to send a copy of this circular to each member of the present General Conference, who shall consider the same and return his opinions and suggestions to the committee, within three months.

3. *Resolved*, That when the committee shall have received the returned circulars from the members of this Conference, with their opinions and suggestions on the points therein contained, they shall avail themselves of all the information thus suggested, and prepare a revised copy of our Rituals, which they shall then lay before the Bishops; and the Bishops shall have power to make any verbal alterations; and when the Ritual shall receive the final approval of the Bishops, they shall cause the same to be published, and the Rituals thus revised shall thereafter go immediately into use."

[For so much of the Report of the Committee on Revisals as relates to a Revision of the Rituals of the Church, see *Appendix GG.*]

The Report of the Committee on Revisals as a whole was then adopted, as follows:

The Committee on Revisals and Unfinished Business present the following as a continuation of their report:

Having considered that part of the Bishops' Address relating to a provision for changing the place of holding an annual conference,

Change of Dis-  
cipline.  
Relating to a  
change of place  
for holding an  
annual confer-  
ence.

Recommend the addition of the following to the answer to ques. 3, sec. 3, chap. iii, Part I: "But should it become necessary, from any unforeseen cause, to change the place of its sitting after it has been fixed by the Conference, the preacher or preachers in charge of the place, and the presiding elder of the district where the conference was to be held, shall have power to make such change. But this authority shall not be exercised without first consulting the other presiding elders of the conference so far as practicable."

Change of Dis-  
cipline.  
Note on page  
210.

Having considered the memorial from the members of our Church in Cincinnati, in relation to a note on page 210 of the

Cincinnati edition of our Discipline, we recommend the following resolution :

June 8, 1856.

*Resolved*, That the note on page 210 of the Discipline, as published by our Book Agents at Cincinnati, is unauthorized, and shall be struck out.

The Committee having considered the memorial from New-England Conference in relation to the section on Dress, recommend the substitution of the following for answer to question in sec. 1, chap. viii, Part I.

Change of Discipline.  
On the subject of Dress.

"By all means. This is no time to encourage superfluity in dress. Therefore, let all our people be exhorted to conform to the spirit of the apostolic precept, 'not to adorn themselves with gold, and pearls, and costly array.'" 1 Tim. ii, 9.

We recommend that the words, "also the preacher or preachers that may be stationed in the city of New-Orleans," be struck out of ans. 3, ques. 3, sec. 1, chap. iv, Part I, page 41, of the Discipline.

Change of Discipline.  
Relating to stationing preachers in New-Orleans.

We recommend that the word "annually" be inserted after the words "There shall be," in the first line of ans. 2, sec. 2, chap. iii, Part III, page 181, so as to make the meeting of the District Stewards annual.

Change of Discipline.  
Annual meeting of district stewards.

We recommend the insertion of the words, "the number of churches or houses of worship in their charge," after the words "properly distinguished," in ans. 9, ques. 1, sec. 11, chap. iv, Part I, page 59, of the Discipline.

Change of Discipline.  
Statistics of churches.

We recommend that the word "up," in the clause, "By running with patience the race which is set up before them," page 29, sec. 1, chap. ii, Part I, be struck out as a typographical error.

Change of Discipline.  
The word "up" to be struck out, &c.

We also recommend that the words, "which shall have authority to order a new trial," be added after the words "Quarterly Conference," in ans. 4, ques. 1, sec. 4, chap. ix, Part I, page 100, of the Discipline.

Change of Discipline.  
Giving a quarterly conference authority to order a new trial.

We recommend that the words "next Annual Conference authorized as aforesaid," on page 177 of Discipline, Part III, chap. ii, sec. 3, item 3, be struck out, and the words "Quarterly Conference" be inserted, and the words "Annual Conference" in the next line be struck out, and the words "Quarterly Conference" inserted.

Change of Discipline.  
Quarterly conferences to have power to dispose of moneys arising from sale of Church property.

Also, we recommend that the Book Agents be directed to insert after the words "Gildas Salvianus," on page 66 of Discipline, the remaining part of the title to the book, ("Reformed Pastor.")

Change of Discipline.  
Title of a book to be inserted.

Also, the insertion in Part I, chap. iv, sec. 17, page 74, after the words "who may reside without the bounds of the Conference of which he is a member," the words "shall have a seat in the Quarterly Conference, and all the privileges of membership in the Church where he may reside."

Change of Discipline.  
Relating to superannuated preachers.

Also, that ans. 11, ques. 1, sec. 11, chap. iv, Part I, page 59, be struck out.

Change of Discipline.  
Men and women not to be met apart, &c.

Also, that ans. 1, ques. 1, sec. 4, chap. ix, Part I, page 98, be amended, by striking out all of said answer embraced in the first period, and insert, "before the Society of which he is a member, or

Change of Discipline.  
Trial to be before a preacher in charge, and minutes to be taken.

June 8, 1856.

a select number of them, in the presence of the preacher in charge, who shall preside in the trial, and cause exact minutes of the evidence and proceedings in the case to be taken."

Change of Discipline.  
Appeals to be determined from the minutes taken in the original trial.

Also, in answer 5 to the same question, page 100, after the words, "sufficient notice is given them," strike out the remainder of the period, and insert, "and the preacher in charge shall present exact minutes of the evidence and proceedings of the trial to the Quarterly Conference, from which minutes the case shall finally be determined."

Change of Discipline.  
Western Book Concern to pay one third of all expenses and appropriations.

Also, in Part III, chap. vi, item 6, respecting the Book Agents, page 202, strike out all of the second period, and insert, "They shall also pay one third of the salaries and traveling expenses of the Bishops, and also the same proportion of all other appropriations made by the General Conference, unless otherwise ordered by said Conference."

Change of Discipline.  
Preachers may stay more than four years in the same city.

Also, we recommend that the words, "nor in the same city more than four years in succession, nor return him to it after such term of service till he shall have been absent four years," be struck out from ans. 3, ques. 1, sec. 1, chap. iv, Part I, page 41.

Change of Discipline.  
New chapter on singing.

Also, we recommend the insertion of the following for sec. 2, chap. v, Part I, entitled, "Of the Spirit and Truth of Singing."

*Ques.* How shall we guard against formality in singing?

*Ans.* 1. Choose such hymns as are proper for the occasion, and do not sing too much at once. Seldom more than four or five verses.

2. Let the tune be suited to the sentiment, and do not suffer the people to sing too slow.

3. In every Society let due attention be given to the cultivation of sacred music.

4. If you cannot sing yourself, let one or two be chosen in each Society to lead the singing.

5. As singing is a part of Divine worship in which all ought to unite, therefore exhort every person in the congregation to sing, not one in ten only.

Change of Discipline.  
Quarterly Report.

Also, we recommend the insertion of the following in place of ans. 11, ques. 1, sec. 11, chap. iv, Part I, page 59:

"To report at each quarterly meeting the names of those who have been received into the Church or excluded therefrom during the quarter; also the names of those who have been received or dismissed by certificate, and of those who have died or have withdrawn from our Church"

Change of Discipline.  
Church statistics.

The Committee on Revisals also recommend the following change in the Discipline. Strike out the 16th inquiry, under ques. 5, page 36, sec. 3, and instead of inquiry 13, insert the following:

What is the number of Church members?

Number of deaths the past year?

Number of probationers?

Number of local preachers?

Number of adults baptized the past year?

Number of children baptized the past year?

Number of churches?

Their probable value?

Number of parsonages?

Their probable value?

Amount collected for superannuated preachers?

Amount collected for the Missionary Society?



Amount collected for the Tract Society?  
 Amount collected for the American Bible Society?  
 Amount collected for the Sunday-School Union?  
 Number of Sunday schools?  
 Number of officers and teachers?  
 Number of scholars?  
 Number of volumes in library?

June 8, 1856.

They also report the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents be directed to print such blank forms as may be prepared by the Bishops for the use of pastors and presiding elders, and for the use of the secretaries of the several annual conferences.

Blanks.

The committee having considered the memorial and resolutions referred to them relating to circuit stewards,

Recommend that the answer to ques. 5, sec. 4, chap. iii, Part III, page 184, be amended, by striking out the word *seven* (7) and inserting the word *nine* (9).

Change of Discipline.  
*Nine* stewards instead of *seven*.

The following resolution, which was offered some days since and laid on the table, was taken up and adopted, namely:

*Resolved*, That the Discipline, page 41, chap. iv, be so altered that when a traveling preacher is employed as an agent of a State Bible Society, auxiliary to the American Bible Society, the Bishop may have power to make such appointment as is now provided for in the employment of agents for State Colonization Societies, Chaplains to State Prisons, and in the army and navy.

Change of Discipline.  
 Bishops may appoint preachers agents of State Bible Societies.

On motion of S. Van Deusen, the order of business was further suspended to take up the Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools.

Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools taken up.

The report was taken up, and Conference proceeded to consider its several items in their order.

The first question, and the first, second, and third answers to it, were severally read and adopted.

First question and first, second, and third answers read and adopted.  
 Motion to amend.

The fourth answer to the first question was read, and J. M. Reid moved to amend by striking out so much as relates to the duty of a preacher to prepare a list of children, &c.

H. Bangs moved to lay the answer on the table; but the motion did not prevail.

Motion to lay the answer on the table.  
 Lost.  
 Amendment carried.  
 Adjournment.

The amendment of J. M. Reid then prevailed.

A motion to prolong the session was lost, and Conference adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Scott.

June 8, 1856.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Scott in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by William C. Smith, of the Indiana Conference.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

J. B. Finley excused.

George W. Walker asked that James B. Finley, a delegate from the Cincinnati Conference, have leave of absence for the remainder of the session. On motion, leave was granted accordingly.

John T. Mitchell takes his seat.

John T. Mitchell presented his credentials as the first reserve delegate from Cincinnati Conference, and he was admitted to a seat.

Report on Trials and Appeals taken up.

On motion of James Porter, the order of the day was suspended to take up the Report of the Committee on Trials and Appeals.

The report was taken up, and the item providing a mode of Trial of Traveling Preachers by a Committee of the Annual Conference, was read and adopted as follows :

The Committee on Trials and Appeals beg leave to report,

Change of Discipline relating to the Trial of an accused Traveling Preacher.

That they have carefully considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the trial of accused traveling ministers, and in accordance with their suggestion, they recommend that the Discipline be so altered (Part I, chap. ix, sec. 2, page 94, immediately preceding the words "provided nevertheless," &c.) as to read,

"But should the Conference having jurisdiction in any of the foregoing cases, judge it expedient to try the accused by a select number, it may appoint not less than nine, nor more than fifteen of its members for that purpose, who, in the presence of a bishop or a chairman, which the President of the Conference shall appoint, and one or more of the Secretaries of the Conference, shall have full power to consider and determine the case according to the rules which govern annual conferences in such proceedings, and they shall make a faithful report of all their doings to the Secretary of the Conference in writing, and deliver up to him the bill of charges, the evidence taken, and the decision rendered, with all other documents brought into the trial."

So much of the report as relates to the Laws of Evidence was read and adopted as follows :

Report relating to the Laws of Evidence.

The committee have also considered that part of the Bishops' Address which relates to the laws of evidence, and beg leave to report that it is inexpedient to incorporate into the Discipline anything further upon this subject. The laws of evidence in civil and criminal jurisprudence are complicated, and often inappropriate to our circumstances. Having no authority to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses, we are sometimes obliged to rely chiefly on evidence that would not be admitted in the jurisprudence of the state. These facts, taken in connection with the increasing facilities among us for a better understanding of the subject, fully justify the committee, they think, in the conclusion at which they have arrived.

So much of the report as relates to a Conference of Appeals was read and adopted as follows, namely :

June 3, 1856.

That part of the Bishops' Address which relates to a Conference of Appeals, has given your committee great embarrassment. The plans suggested, together with several others had under consideration at the General Conference of 1852, have been carefully examined. To these have been added a number more, containing elements of great excellence. But after careful consideration of the whole subject, your committee entertain serious doubts of the propriety of introducing a new and distinct tribunal into our economy. Arrange it as we may, it will involve many inconveniences, and much expense, besides being liable to various misconstructions. Our present system is simple and unobtrusive. Without a parade of forms and high-sounding titles, it secures the rights of all our members in an eminent degree, while at the same time it protects the Church against the influence of unworthy members.

Conference of Appeals.

Your committee, therefore, beg leave to report, that, in their judgment, it is inexpedient for this General Conference to provide for a Delegated Annual or Biennial Conference of Appeals, and to relieve the difficulties which call loudest for some change, they recommend that the following paragraph be appended to section 2, of Part I, of the Discipline, entitled, "Of the General Conference," namely :

"The General Conference may try appeals from members of Annual Conferences who may have been censured, suspended, expelled, or located without their consent by a committee embracing not less than fifteen of its members, nor more than one member from each delegation, who, in the presence of a bishop presiding, and one or more of the secretaries of the Conference keeping a faithful record of all the proceedings had, shall have full power to hear and determine the case, subject to the rules and regulations which govern the said Conference in such proceedings; and the records made and the papers submitted in such trials shall be presented to the Conference, and be filed and preserved with the papers of that body."

Change of Discipline relating to the mode of Trying Appeals.

George Peck, Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern, submitted the following report, and it was adopted, namely :

The Committee on the Book Concern beg leave further to report, that there have been various applications from individuals asking relief. The committee recommend the following :

Report concerning individuals asking relief.

*Resolved*, That we recommend these persons to apply to the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, who are authorized to settle such claims.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Book Concern further reported in relation to the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate as follows, and the report was adopted, namely :

The Committee on the Book Concern, to whom was referred the Quadrennial Report of the Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, beg leave to report the following as its financial condition.

Report concerning the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

June 8, 1856.

## ASSETS OF PITTSBURGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

Office furniture.....	\$516 50	
Due from sundries.....	790 21	
Bills receivable.....	1,735 00	
Cash in hand.....	1,792 00	
	<hr/>	4,833 71

## LIABILITIES.

Due to sundries.....	1,225 34	
Bills payable.....	1,466 92	
	<hr/>	2,692 26

Balance in favor of Advocate, \$2,141 45

There has been a gradual improvement in the financial condition of the paper during the term since the last General Conference up to June 1st, 1856.

The old debts remaining after your last session have all been paid, and the expenses of publication have been promptly met as they accrued.

We therefore report the paper as in a prosperous condition.

The Committee on the Book Concern, through its chairman, reported further, in relation to alleged errors in the reports of the Book Agents at New-York, concerning the Quarterly Review, National Magazine, and Sunday School Advocate; and the report was accepted and ordered to be printed.

[For full Report, see *Appendix HH.*]

Report on the  
Tract Cause  
taken up.

On motion of J. Floy, the regular order was suspended to take up the Report of the Committee on the Tract Cause. The report was taken up, and the Revised Constitution was read in part, when, on motion of William A. Wilmer, the report was laid on the table by a vote of 92 to 57.

Read in part  
and laid on the  
table.

Report of Com-  
mittee on Pas-  
toral Address.

A. Griffith, Chairman of the Committee to prepare a Pastoral Address, submitted the report of the committee. It was read, and on motion of W. Reddy, it was amended by striking out the phrase "co-workers with God," and inserting, instead thereof, "workers together with him," and the report as amended was adopted.

Report amended  
and adopted.

[For Pastoral Address, see *Appendix II.*]

Address to be  
printed in the  
Church papers.

On motion of J. M'Clintock, it was ordered that the Pastoral Address be printed in all our Church papers.

Report on the  
Chartered  
Fund.  
Adopted.

F. Hodgson, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund, presented a report; and on motion it was adopted as follows, namely:

The committee to whom was referred the Report of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund beg leave to report, that from the document submitted to them it appears that in 1854, under a decree of the



Supreme Court of the United States, an amicable division of said fund was made with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Its net valuation at that time was \$38,324 31. The division was made in proportion to the number of preacher in the Churches respectively. The amount paid to the commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is \$17,051 05, leaving a balance of \$21,273 26. It is expected that this sum will be increased in a short time by a due proportion of the sum of \$6,000, now in litigation, and to be divided, when obtained, between the two churches.

Your committee having duly considered the whole subject, recommend to the General Conference the following resolutions, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That the General Conference has entire confidence in the wisdom and integrity of the Trustees of the Chartered Fund, and approves of their administration of their trust during the last four years.

2. *Resolved*, That the General Conference especially approves of the amicable division of the Chartered Fund with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the principles upon which it was effected.

3. *Resolved*, That the General Conference leaves to the discretion of the Trustees the question, whether the Fund committed to their care can be safely invested in those states which allow higher rates of interest than are lawful in Pennsylvania.

4. *Resolved*, That the General Conference confirm the election of Brothers Colson Hieskell and T. K. Collins as Trustees of this Fund.

5. *Resolved*, That the thanks of the General Conference be tendered to the Trustees of the Chartered Fund for the wisdom and faithfulness with which they have discharged their duty.

6. *Resolved*, That the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of the foregoing to the Trustees of the Chartered Fund.

John M'Clintock presented a series of resolutions relating to the interests of the Tract Cause, and to the price of the Christian Advocate and Journal.

The first resolution was adopted.

W. Graham moved to amend the second resolution by inserting the words "and they," between the words "he" and "may," in the phrase "as he may deem necessary."

John A. Collins moved as a substitute, that the Conference now proceed to elect a Tract Secretary.

On motion of Isaac Parks, the substitute was laid on the table.

John A. Collins moved to lay both the amendment and resolution on the table; but the motion was lost. The amendment prevailed; and the resolution, as amended, was adopted. The third resolution was adopted.

The resolutions as adopted are in words following, to wit:

*Resolved*, That it is not expected of the Corresponding Secretary of the Tract Society to devote more time to visiting Annual

June 3, 1856.

Resolutions relating to the interests of the Tract Cause, &c.

Amendment proposed.

Substitute offered.

Laid on the table.

Motion to lay the amendment and resolution on the table. Lost.

Tract Secretary to have suitable assistance.

June 3, 1856.

Conferences than may be compatible with his other duties as Editor.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Managers of the Tract Society be directed to provide for the office of the Corresponding Secretary such assistance as he and they may deem necessary to carry into effect the objects contemplated in his appointment.

Agents authorized to increase the price of the Christian Advocate and Journal.

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at New-York be authorized to increase the price of the Christian Advocate and Journal, so as to afford a larger outlay upon its correspondence, &c., according to their discretion.

Bishops and Secretary to sign.

On motion of J. S. Porter, Conference directed that the Replies to communications from abroad, the Pastoral Address, and the Address to the Church on the subject of Missions, be signed by the Bishops, and countersigned by the Secretary.

On motion of John A. Collins, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

J. T. Peck's moving expenses and salary to be paid.

*Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the Book Agents at New-York be, and they hereby are, instructed to pay to Jesse T. Peck his moving expenses from New-York to the appointment which shall be given him in the regular work, and to pay his salary up to the time assigned by the Bishop for his entering upon such work, not extending beyond the month of June.

Thomas Carlton presented the following report, and it was adopted, namely :

Report relating to the Bequest of Noble Melvin.

The Committee appointed on the Bequest of Noble Melvin, deceased, report the following resolution for adoption :

*Resolved*, That the money bequeathed to the "General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be applied to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures," be paid to the Book Agents at New-York, and that they be instructed, in consideration thereof, to furnish to the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 2,861 roan embossed, gilt, and 1,718 roan, tuck, gilt Testaments, to be distributed by the said Union as presents among the various Sabbath schools in the destitute portions of the work.

On motion of W. Hamilton, the Report of the Committee on Missions was taken up, and so much of the report as relates to the Scandinavian Missions was read and adopted as follows :

Scandinavian Missions.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to report further :

We recommend that the Scandinavian Missions be made a distinct Missionary work upon the same plan as our German Missions; that is, to be formed into a District or Districts; and if there be two Districts formed, the first District shall be attached to the Wisconsin Conference, and the second to the Peoria Conference.

The Revised Constitution of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as suggested by the Parent Board, which was presented heretofore, was taken up.

Pending its consideration, the 13th section was amended so as to make the Contingent Fund \$10,000 instead of \$5,000, and the Revised Constitution, as amended, was adopted.

June 3, 1856.  
Amendment.

Constitution  
adopted.

[For Revised Constitution, see *Appendix JJ*.]

On motion of John P. Durbin, so much of the Report of the Committee on Missions as relates to a Missionary Seminary was referred to the Missionary Board at New-York, with instructions that any measure the said Board may take in the premises be conformed strictly to the spirit of the proviso with which the report concludes.

Report relating  
to a Missionary  
Seminary re-  
ferred to Mis-  
sionary Board.

On motion of D. W. Clark, seconded by J. P. Durbin, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the following principles shall regulate the administration in relation to Missionary Bishops during the coming four years, namely :

1. A Missionary Bishop shall reside (with his family, if he have one) in the particular mission field assigned him, and he shall perform all the duties of a Bishop in said district, to which his jurisdiction shall be exclusively limited.

2. Should he cease to reside in said mission field, he shall exercise no episcopal powers, and shall become a member of the annual conference from which he was elected.

3. His amenability shall be as in the case of other bishops, except that the testimony taken before the Investigating Committee shall be in writing, and upon this testimony, and upon such further testimony as may be taken prior to the session of the General Conference, on proper notification of the parties, shall the case be determined by the General Conference.

4. The support of a Missionary Bishop while in his work, or in case of failure of health, and the provision for his family in case of death, shall be furnished in the same manner as in the case of other missionaries.

W. C. Hoyt, seconded by M. D'C. Crawford, moved the following resolutions, and they were adopted unanimously by a rising vote, namely :

*Resolved*, That this General Conference, on behalf of the whole Methodist Episcopal Church, tender their thanks, through His Excellency Governor Wright, to the State of Indiana, for the liberal provisions which have been made in the Capitol Buildings for the sittings of the Conference; and also their thanks to Governor Wright for his personal attention and courtesy to us as a body.

Thanks to the  
State of In-  
diana.

2. *Resolved*, That we hereby tender our acknowledgments to the Citizens of Indianapolis and vicinity for their generous hospitality extended to us so freely during our sojourn among them.

Thanks to the  
Citizens of In-  
dianapolis.

3. *Resolved*, That our obligations are due to our indefatigable and obliging Secretary and his able Assistants, for the faithful manner in which they have performed their onerous duties.

Thanks to the  
Secretaries.

4. *Resolved*, That we highly appreciate the generosity of those Railroad Companies who have passed our preachers free to and from their appointments during our session, and for their generous reduction of fare to persons coming and going from the sessions of this body.

Thanks to the  
Railroad Com-  
panies.

June 8, 1856.  
Resolutions to  
be published.

5. *Resolved*, That a copy of the above be furnished for publication to each of the newspapers published in this city.

On motion of W. Roberts, the preamble and resolution relating to the appointment of Members of the General Mission Committee on the Pacific coast were taken up and adopted, as follows :

Members of the  
General Mis-  
sion Commit-  
tee on the Pa-  
cific coast.

*Whereas* the conferences on the Pacific coast are too far removed from the Atlantic States to allow of a personal representation in the General Mission Committee without involving great expense : and whereas the domestic missionary work in these conferences is constantly changing and requiring modification in its general arrangement, and needs special representation in the said Missionary Committee ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That, in the appointment of the General Missionary Committee, the Bishop be directed to constitute corresponding members of the said committee for the Oregon and California Conferences, respectively, who shall have a corresponding relation to said committee, and shall be allowed to vote by proxy in its annual meetings, on all subjects relating to domestic missions on the Pacific coast.

J. S. Porter presented a fiscal report from the Committee on Expenses of Delegates, and it was adopted.

[See *Appendix* KK.]

On motion Conference agreed to proceed with the elections.

Motion to recon-  
sider the action  
relating to  
nominations of  
persons to be  
voted for as  
delegates, &c.

W. H. Brockway moved to reconsider the vote by which the Conference ordered nominations for candidates to be voted for as delegates to the Canada and British Wesleyan Conferences.

Matter recon-  
sidered and laid  
on the table.

H. Bangs moved to lay the motion to reconsider on the table, but the motion was lost by a vote of 76 to 91, and the motion to reconsider prevailed ; and the whole matter in relation to the nominations by committee was laid on the table.

Majority neces-  
sary to a choice.

On motion Conference resolved, that in the elections it shall require a majority of all the votes cast to elect.

Ballot for dele-  
gates to the  
British Confer-  
ence.

A ballot was cast for two delegates to attend the British Wesleyan Conference in 1857, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Delegates of the  
Providence  
Conference to  
receive back  
\$25.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the Committee on Expenses of Delegates were directed to pay back to the delegation of the Providence Conference the sum of \$25.

Report relating  
to B. Williams.  
Laid on the  
table.

Norval Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Itinerancy, submitted a report in relation to B. Williams. It was, on motion, laid on the table.

Report relating  
to the action of  
Genesee Con-  
ference.

He also submitted a further report in relation to the action of the Genesee Conference, as set forth in its Journal ; and, on



motion, it was laid on the table. The Tellers came into Conference, and before the result of the ballot was announced, on motion of J. H. Perry, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

June 8, 1856.  
Laid on the  
table.

*Resolved*, That should there be no election on the present ballot, all the names except the four highest shall be dropped in the next balloting. Should one delegate be elected, all the names but those of the two highest shall be dropped at the next ballot.

Resolution re-  
lating to a sec-  
ond ballot.

The chairman announced the result of the first ballot as follows :

Whole number of votes cast, 183 : necessary to a choice, 92. Bishop Simpson received 122 ; John M'Clintock, 73 ; M. Raymond, 66 ; George Peck, 34 ; remainder scattering.

Result of the  
ballot.

Bishop Simpson, having received a majority of all the votes cast, was declared duly elected.

Bishop Simpson  
elected.

On motion of P. Coombe, Conference agreed to meet at 8 o'clock this evening.

Evening session

The second ballot was cast, and the Tellers retired.

Second ballot.

A communication was received from L. D. Harlan, requesting a copy of the minutes of his trial before the Cincinnati Conference, and also before the committee at Dayton. On motion, the memorialist was referred to the Cincinnati Conference, which, by the vote of this Conference, has all the papers relating to this case in its possession.

L. D. Harlan re-  
quests a copy  
of certain pa-  
pers, request  
referred to the  
Cincinnati  
Conference.

In answer to an inquiry made by P. S. Bennett, it was resolved that the case of J. M. Snow, which was remanded to the Wisconsin Conference before the division of said conference for a new trial, shall now be within the jurisdiction of the West Wisconsin Conference.

J. M. Snow's  
case goes to the  
West Wiscon-  
sin Conference.

On motion of L. Hitchcock, seconded by H. Crews, the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Book Agents at Cincinnati be, and they are hereby, authorized and instructed to purchase real estate in the city of Chicago, suitable for the erection of a Book Room and Publishing House for the Methodist Episcopal Church, so soon as they may be able, without endangering the interests of the Book Concern at Cincinnati.

Resolution re-  
lating to the  
purchase of  
real estate in  
Chicago.

The Tellers came into Conference, and from the result it appeared that John M'Clintock was elected a delegate to the British Conference.

John M'Clin-  
tock elected a  
delegate to the  
British Confer-  
ence.

A ballot was cast for three delegates to the Canada Conference, and the Tellers and Secretary retired.

Ballot cast for  
the election of  
three delegates  
to the Canada  
Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned.

Benediction by Bishop Baker.

Adjournment.

June 8, 1856.

## TUESDAY EVENING.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment; Bishop Simpson in the chair.

The usual religious services were conducted by William Young, of the Cincinnati Conference.

The Journal of this afternoon was read and approved.

On motion of C. W. Ruter, seconded by William Cooper, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolution of thanks to the Bishops.

1. *Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the thanks of this Conference are justly due, and are hereby tendered, to our beloved Superintendents for the able, patient, and impartial manner in which they have presided over the deliberations of this body during its protracted session.

Thanks to the Reporter.

2. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Conference are hereby tendered to our able Reporter, W. P. Strickland, for the faithful manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office during the session of this Conference.

On motion of J. S. Porter, the Committee on Expenses of Delegates had leave to amend their report as follows, namely:

Report on Expenses of Delegates amended.

The Committee on Expenses of the Delegates beg leave to amend their first report:

The whole amount of deficiency being ascertained to be three thousand four hundred and fifty-one dollars ten cents, (\$3,451 10,) for which the Chairman, by a former action of the Conference, was authorized to draw on the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati.

The Tellers came into Conference with the result of the ballot for three delegates to the Canada Conference. Before the result of the ballot was declared, on motion of W. L. Harris, the following resolution was adopted, namely:

Resolution making the three receiving the highest number of votes the delegates.

*Resolved*, That if it shall appear that three delegates are not chosen by having severally received a majority of all the votes cast, then, and in that case, the three having received the highest number of votes shall be declared duly elected.

The chair announced the result of the ballot as follows:

M. Raymond, William Hamilton, and L. W. Berry elected.

Whole number of votes cast, 175. Minor Raymond received 81; William Hamilton, 64; and L. W. Berry, 49; and they were declared duly elected in pursuance of the foregoing resolution.

Report on Education taken up and adopted.

On motion of E. Thomson, the Report of the Committee on Education was taken up.

The following resolutions, contained in the report, were severally read and adopted as follows, namely:

1. *Resolved*, That our institutions of learning be requested to be more prompt and full in reporting their condition to the General Conference.

2. *Resolved*, That the attention of the Book Agents be called to this report.

3. *Resolved*, That our Seminaries of learning be commended to the prayers of the Church, and that the Annual Concert of prayer for Colleges be observed in all our congregations.

4. *Resolved*, That the several Annual Conferences be directed to discourage the further multiplication of Methodist Colleges, and other Seminaries of learning, unless when additional schools may be imperatively required for the education of the youth of our Church, and unless these schools may be maintained without materially diminishing the patronage and efficiency of existing institutions.

5. *Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Conference, no institution should hereafter be received as a college under the patronage of our Church, until it shall have secured an endowment of one hundred thousand dollars.

6. *Resolved*, That preachers appointed by our Bishops to our institutions of learning, shall not be deemed ineligible to full connection in our Annual Conferences, if otherwise qualified; and that the Discipline be conformed to this principle.

Pending the consideration of the sixth resolution, W. A. Wilmer moved to lay it on the table; but the motion was lost.

The report was adopted as a whole, and ordered to be printed. [For Report, see *Appendix LL*.]

John P. Durbin, Chairman of the special committee to prepare a Reply to the Address of the British Wesleyan Conference, submitted the report of the committee. It was read, amended, and adopted.

[For Reply, see *Appendix C*.]

A Reply to the Congregational Union of England and Wales was presented by John Kennaday, and adopted.

[For Reply, see *Appendix K*.]

Calvin Kingsley, Chairman of the select committee to prepare a Reply to the Address of the Canada Wesleyan Conference, submitted a report, and it was adopted.

[For Reply, see *Appendix E*.]

Peter Cartwright, Chairman of the Committee to nominate a Book Committee for the Western Book Concern, reported as follows:

1. JOHN T. MITCHELL, of the Cincinnati Conference.
2. EDWARD THOMSON, of the North Ohio Conference.
3. JAMES M. JAMISON, of the Ohio Conference.
4. F. C. HOLLIDAY, of the Southeastern Indiana Conference.
5. W. H. COLLINS, of the Detroit Conference.
6. W. C. SMITH, of the Indiana Conference.
7. PETER CARTWRIGHT, of the Illinois Conference.

P. S. Bennett moved to amend the report by striking out the last name in the list, and inserting that of Luke Hitch-

June 3, 1856.  
Institutions to make full reports to the General Conference.

Book Agents.  
Church to pray for our Literary Institutions.

Methodist Colleges not to be unduly multiplied.

One hundred thousand dollars a minimum.

Change of Discipline.

Preachers appointed to Literary Institutions may become eligible to admission into full connection.

Motion to lay the sixth resolution on the table.

Lost.

Reply to the Address of the British Conference.

Reply to the Address of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

Reply to the Address of the Canada Conference.

Report of Committee to nominate a Book Committee for Cincinnati.

Motion to amend.

- June 8, 1856.  
 Motion to lay on the table. cock. A motion to lay the amendment on the table was lost by a vote of 64 to 74.
- Lost.  
 Substitute proposed. Joseph Brooks moved as a substitute for the amendment to strike out the name of F. C. Holliday, and insert that of L. Hitchcock.
- Laid on the table. On motion of J. A. Brouse, the substitute was laid on the table by a vote of 76 to 62.
- Substitute proposed. H. Buck moved as a substitute for the amendment to strike out the name of W. H. Collins, and insert that of L. Hitchcock, but this substitute was also laid on the table, and on vote the amendment offered by P. S. Bennett was lost by a vote of 75 to 75. The report of the committee was then adopted.
- Laid on the table. Amendment lost.
- Report relating to Bequest of James Bourdet. William Griffin, Chairman of the Committee on the Bequest of James Bourdet, presented a report, and the resolutions which it contained were adopted as follows, namely:
1. *Resolved*, That Solomon Fisk, of Chazy, New-York, and L. Clark, of Plattsburgh, New-York, be and they hereby are appointed commissioners on the part of the Methodist Episcopal Church to settle with the executor or executors of the aforesaid estate.
  2. *Resolved*, That they pay over the money remaining in their hands, after defraying all necessary expenses, in the manner following, namely;  
 Five hundred dollars to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Chazy, New-York, and the balance, be the same more or less, to the Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- The report as a whole was adopted.  
 [For full Report, see *Appendix MM.*]
- Nominations for a Book Committee at New-York. Phineas Rice, Chairman of the Committee to nominate a Book Committee for New-York, reported, and the report was adopted as follows, namely:
- The committee appointed to nominate the Book Committee for the Book Concern at New-York, beg leave to report the following names:
1. BENJAMIN GRIFFEN, New-York Conference.
  2. ISAAC PARKS, Oneida Conference.
  3. THOMAS J. THOMPSON, Philadelphia Conference.
  4. CHARLES B. TIPPETT, Baltimore Conference.
  5. ZEBULON PHILLIPS, Troy Conference.
  6. JOHN M'CLINTOCK, New-Jersey Conference.
  7. RICHARD S. RUST, New-Hampshire Conference.
- John P. Durbin moved to take up the Report on the Metropolitan Church.
- Report on Colored Members taken up and adopted. J. A. Collins moved as a substitute, that the Report of the Committee on Colored Members be taken up. The



substitute was accepted, and the motion prevailed; and the report was read and adopted as follows, namely :

June 3, 1856.

The committee to whom was referred the memorials of colored members within the bounds of the Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New-Jersey Conferences, after due consideration, report the following for the adoption of the Conference, and recommend that it be inserted in the Discipline as a distinct chapter, entitled :

Change of Discipline.

CHAPTER VIII.—*Of the Rights and Privileges of our Colored Members.*

1. Our colored preachers and official members shall have all the privileges which are usual to others in quarterly conferences, where the usages of the country do not forbid it. And the presiding elder may hold for them a separate quarterly conference, when in his judgment it shall be expedient.

Colored members.

2. The bishop or presiding elder may employ colored preachers to travel and preach, when their services are judged necessary. Provided, that no one shall be so employed without having been recommended by a quarterly conference.

3. The Bishops may call a conference once in each year of our colored local preachers, within the bounds of any one or more of our districts, for the purpose of conferring with them with respect to the wants of the work among our colored people, and the best means to be employed in promoting its prosperity; at which conference, the presiding elder within whose district, and under whose care, the colored churches and congregations are, shall be present. Provided, that the holding of said conference or conferences shall be recommended by an annual conference, and the Bishops, upon due inquiry, shall deem it practicable and expedient.

On motion of H. Bangs, Conference proceeded to fix the place of its next session.

Next session.

Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Buffalo, were severally nominated and represented. After which it was agreed to vote on the places named in their order, and that the place receiving the highest number of votes, provided it receive a majority of the votes of those present and voting, shall be the place.

Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, nominated.

The votes were then taken, and Philadelphia received 86 votes, Baltimore 27, and Buffalo 108; whereupon the chair announced that Buffalo was chosen as the place of the next session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Buffalo chosen.

A communication from Leroy Swormstedt was received, requesting the General Conference to allow him eight hundred dollars, in addition to the allowance for the past four years made him by the Estimating Committee; and, on motion, his request was granted.

L. Swormstedt allowed \$800 in addition to his salary for the past four years.

J. P. Durbin stated that there were doubts on the minds of some members of this body in reference to the constitu-

June 8, 1856.  
Mode prescribed  
for electing a  
Bishop for  
Africa consid-  
ered by some  
unconstitu-  
tional.  
Rule suspended  
to change the  
Discipline.

tionality of the mode prescribed for electing a Missionary Bishop for Africa. To remove all room for doubt, he moved a suspension of the rule requiring that any proposition to change the Discipline lie on the table for at least one day before action be had thereon, in order to introduce a change of the Discipline fully meeting the case. The motion to suspend the rule prevailed, and the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Change of Dis-  
cipline.  
General Confer-  
ence may au-  
thorize the  
election of a  
Missionary  
Bishop.  
Report on Met-  
ropolitan  
Church.  
Adopted.

*Resolved*, That the words following be inserted in the Discipline, chap. iv, sec. 1, at the end of the answer to question 1: "But the General Conference may authorize the election of a Missionary Bishop in the interim of the General Conference."

On motion of John P. Durbin, the report on the Metropolitan Church was taken up and adopted as reported.

[See pages 57, 58 of this Journal.]

On motion of James Drummond, seconded by George W. Walker, the following preamble and resolution were adopted under the operation of the previous question, namely :

Preamble and  
resolutions re-  
lating to Reed-  
er Smith.

*Whereas*, Rev. Reeder Smith, a local elder of the M. E. Church, has been expelled from said Church by the Quarterly Conference of Appleton Station : and whereas, the decision of said Quarterly Conference was subsequently confirmed by the Wisconsin Annual Conference : and whereas, it has been declared, by a special committee to this General Conference, that new testimony has been elicited going to show the innocence of said Reeder Smith : therefore,

*Resolved* by the General Conference, That the Wisconsin Annual Conference be, and hereby is, authorized to order a new trial of the case of Reeder Smith in the Appleton Quarterly Conference.

On motion, the following protest against the passage of the preceding resolution was admitted to record, namely :

Protest of mem-  
bers of the  
Wisconsin del-  
egation.

The undersigned, delegates from the Wisconsin Conference, protest against the action of this General Conference in taking the previous question on the motion offered by James Drummond, touching the case of Reeder Smith, without allowing them to state the facts, or even to be heard on the question.

P. S. BENNETT,  
I. M. LEIHY,  
H. REQUA.

Motion to take  
up the Report  
on Temporal  
Economy.  
Motion to  
amend.

A. Lowrey moved to take up the Report of the Committee on Temporal Economy.

H. Slicer moved to amend by striking out "Temporal Economy," and inserting instead thereof "Temperance."

Substitute pro-  
posed and  
adopted.

George Peck moved as a substitute, to take up the Report of the Committee on the Book Concern. The substitute was adopted.

The Report of the Committee on the Book Concern was then read and adopted as follows, namely :

The Book Committee propose the following revision of the Discipline, namely :

Strike out sections 10 and 11, ch. vi, Part III, pages 204, 205, and substitute the following sections, namely :

10. In addition to the Christian Advocate and Journal and the Western Christian Advocate, there shall be published the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, at Pittsburgh, Pa. ; the Northern Christian Advocate, at Auburn, N. Y. ; and the Northwestern Christian Advocate, at Chicago, Ill. ; also, as soon as arrangements to that effect shall be completed by the Book Agents at New-York and Cincinnati, according to the instructions of the General Conference, there shall be published the Central Christian Advocate, at St. Louis, Mo. ; the Pacific Christian Advocate, at Salem, Oregon ; and the California Christian Advocate, at San Francisco, Cal.

There shall also be a Publishing Committee for each of the above-named papers, to be appointed as hereinafter named, whose duties shall be similar to those of the Book Committees at New-York and Cincinnati, so far as they may be applicable to the establishments under their supervision.

The Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate shall consist of two members from each of the following conferences, to be chosen annually by the conferences respectively, namely: Two by the Pittsburgh, two by Erie, and two by the Western Virginia.

The Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate shall consist of one member from each of the following conferences, to be chosen annually by the conferences respectively, namely: Genesee, East Genesee, Oneida, Black River, and Wyoming Conferences.

The Publishing Committee of the Northwestern Christian Advocate shall consist of one member from each of the following conferences, to be chosen annually by the conferences respectively, namely: Michigan, Detroit, Northwestern Indiana, Rock River, Illinois, Iowa, Upper Iowa, Peoria, Wisconsin, and West Wisconsin Conferences.

The Publishing Committee of the Central Christian Advocate shall consist of one member of each of the following conferences, to be chosen annually by the conferences respectively, namely: Illinois, Southern Illinois, Iowa, Upper Iowa, Arkansas, Missouri, and the Kansas and Nebraska Conferences.

The Publishing Committee of the Pacific Christian Advocate shall consist of five members of the Oregon Conference, to be chosen annually by said conference.

The Publishing Committee of the California Christian Advocate shall consist of five members of the California Conference, to be chosen annually by said conference.

11. In case of vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise, in either of the establishments named in the above sections, the Publishing Committee having supervision of the same shall have authority, with the concurrence of either of the General Superintendents, to provide for such vacancy until the next General Conference.

On motion of George Peck, seconded by Thomas H. Pearne, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That the Book Committees at New-York and Cincinnati be authorized to estimate the salaries of Editors and Agents connected with those Concerns respectively; and that the Publishing Committees of the several papers published under the authority

June 3, 1856.

Report of the Committee on the Book Concern taken up. Discipline changed. Publishing Committees of the several General Conference papers.

Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate.

Publishing Committee of the Northwestern Christian Advocate.

Publishing Committee of the Central Christian Advocate.

Publishing Committee of the Pacific Christian Advocate.

Publishing Committee of the California Christian Advocate.

Vacancies occurring *ad interim*: how to be filled.

Book Committees and Publishing: Committees to estimate the Sal-

June 8, 1856.  
aries of the  
Editors and  
Agents.

of the General Conference not included in the above, shall be authorized to estimate the salaries of the Editors of said papers.

On motion of E. Thomson, the following resolution was adopted, namely :

Charles Elliott  
to receive his  
salary till em-  
ployed.

*Resolved*, That the Agents of the Western Book Concern be, and they are hereby, instructed to pay the salary of Charles Elliott, late Editor of the Western Christian Advocate, until the next session of his conference, unless he shall be previously employed.

Report on Sun-  
day Schools.  
Adopted.

On motion of S. Y. Monroe, the Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was taken up, and adopted as follows, namely :

Change of Dis-  
cipline.  
In relation to  
Sunday  
Schools.

PART I, CHAP. VI.—*Of Sunday Schools and the Religious Instruction of Children.*

*Ques.* 1. What shall we do for the moral and religious instruction of the children?

*Ans.* 1. It shall be the special duty of preachers having charge of circuits or stations, with the aid of the other preachers, to form Sunday schools in all our congregations where ten children can be collected for that purpose, and to engage the coöperation of as many of our members as they can, to visit the schools as often as practicable, to preach on the subject of Sunday schools and religious instruction in each congregation at least once in six months, and to form Bible classes wherever they can for the instruction of larger children and youth; and where they cannot superintend them personally, to see that suitable teachers are provided for that purpose.

2. It shall also be the duty of preachers to enforce faithfully upon parents and Sunday-school teachers the great importance of instructing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion, to see that our catechisms be used as extensively as possible both in our Sunday schools and families, to preach to the children, and publicly catechise them in the Sunday schools and at special meetings appointed for that purpose.

3. It shall be the duty of every preacher in his pastoral visits to pay special attention to the children, speaking to them personally and kindly on the subject of experimental and practical godliness, according to their capacity, pray earnestly for them, and diligently instruct and exhort all parents to dedicate their children to the Lord in baptism, as early as convenient.

4. Each preacher in charge shall lay before the quarterly conference, (see Part I, chap. iii, sec. 4, ques. 4, ans. 8.) to be entered on its Journal, the number and state of the Sunday schools and Bible classes in his charge, and the extent to which he has preached to the children and catechised them, and make the required report on Sunday schools to his annual conference.

5. (To read the same as present answer 2.)

Change of Dis-  
cipline.

To strike out from the answer to ques. 1, sec. 4, chap. iii, Part I, the words,

"But the first male superintendents of the Sunday schools, being members of our Church, shall, by virtue of their office, have a seat in the quarterly conference having supervision of their schools, with the right to speak and vote on questions relating to Sunday schools, and on such questions only,"

And insert instead thereof, after the words "or station," and before the words "and none else," the following, namely :



"And the first male superintendents of our Sunday schools, being members of our Church, and approved by the quarterly conference."

To insert in ans. 5 to ques. 4, sec. 2, chap. iv, Part I, after the word "circuit," in the seventh line, the words,

"Or station, and the first male superintendents of our Sunday schools, being members of our Church, and approved by the quarterly conference."

In Part I, chap iv, sec. 11, ques. 1, ans. 16, to strike out the words, "in connection with reporting the Sunday-school statistics," and insert, instead thereof, the words "in his report."

That so much of ans. 1, chap. vi, Part I, page 85, as follows the words, "each quarterly conference shall have supervision of all the Sunday schools and Sunday-school Societies within its bounds," be transferred to Part I, chap. iii, sec. 4, ques. 4, ans. 8, page 39, in place of the present reference thereto.

June 8, 1856.  
Sunday-school  
superintend-  
ents members  
of the quarter-  
ly conferences.

Transferred to a  
new place in  
the Discipline.

The following resolution, presented yesterday and laid on the table, was taken up and adopted, namely :

*Resolved*, That, in view of the intimate relation which our German Publications at Cincinnati bear to the Sabbath School, Tract, and General English Publications at New-York, as well as to the contemplated German Publications in Bremen by order of the Missionary Board, we recommend the appointment of the German Editor as ex-officio member of the Publishing Committees of the Tract Society, of the Sunday-School Union, and of the Missionary Society, so as to allow him, when it is deemed necessary by those having charge of the above-named interests, officially to consult with them in regard to the Books and Tracts which ought to be published in Cincinnati, or in Bremen, and for properly selecting and procuring the necessary cuts and other typographical requirements.

German editor  
ex-officio a  
member of the  
Publishing  
Committee of  
the Tract So-  
ciety and of the  
Missionary So-  
ciety.

On motion of A. J. Phelps, the Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate were instructed to pay William Hosmer his salary up to the time of the meeting of his conference, and also his moving expenses to the field of labor to which he may be assigned.

W. Hosmer to  
receive his  
salary till his  
conference  
meets.

On motion of S. Allen, seconded by J. L. Lenhart, the following resolutions were adopted :

1. *Resolved*, by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church in General Conference assembled, That we highly appreciate the services of our respected brother, Rev. Daniel P. Kidder, as Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday-School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, during the last twelve years, and that the prosperous condition of our Sunday-school cause is largely indebted, under God, to his valuable labors.

Thanks to D.  
P. Kidder.

2. *Resolved*, That we hereby tender to Brother Kidder our sincere thanks for his services, and our earnest wishes for his future welfare.

Bishop Simpson submitted a course of study for German preachers, and it was adopted as follows, namely :

June 8, 1856.  
Course of study  
for German  
Traveling  
Preachers.

PLAN OF STUDY FOR THE GERMAN TRAVELING PREACHERS.

*First Year.*

The Theological Compend of A. Binney, translated by L. S. Jacoby.

N. B. Each doctrine of the Bible is expected to be proved by the Scriptural passages quoted.

Wesley's Sermons, vol i, from Nos. 1-15.

Watson's Apology for the Bible.

The Compendium of Methodism.

Church History, (according to a manual published by the religious society of Northern Germany,) vol. i.

Discipline, chapters i, ii, iii, sec. 4; chap. iv, sec. 6-18; chap. viii, sec. 3, 4.

Elements of German Grammar, by Spittlegarb.

A written Essay on some religious subject.

*Second Year.*

The doctrines of the Bible concerning the Sacraments.

Wesley's Sermons, vol i, from Nos. 15-30.

Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection.

Kurtz's Manual of Sacred History.

Church History, vols. ii and iii.

Fletcher's Appeal.

The whole first Part of the Discipline.

Wurst's Grammar and Logic.

A written Sermon on the difference between repentance and faith.

N. B. We recommend, also, the reading of Nelson's Cause and Cure of Infidelity.

*Third Year.*

Wesley's Sermons, vol. ii, from Nos. 1-15.

Bogue's Divine Authority of the New Testament.

Kirchhofer's Introduction into the Holy Scriptures.

Wesley's Life and Labors.

Zeller's Psychology; or, Elements of Mental and Moral Philosophy.

Church History, vols. iv and v.

The whole of the Discipline.

Wurst's Grammar and Logic.

A written Sermon on the difference between justification and sanctification.

N. B. We recommend the reading of D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, vols. i and ii.

*Fourth Year.*

Review of all the doctrines of the Bible, with the Scriptural proofs.

Wesley's Sermons, vol. ii, from Nos. 15-33.

Haldane's Genuineness and Divine Inspiration of the Bible.

Bishop Baker's Guide to the Discipline.

June 3, 1856.

Church History, vols. vi and vii.

Natural Theology, according to the Calwer Naturlehre.

Wurst's Grammar and Logic.

A written sermon on the Divinity and Humanity of Christ.

N. B. We recommend the reading of D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, vols. iii and iv, and Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation.

We recommend, also, that English grammar and composition be studied from the beginning to the end of the course, and that the committee report to the Conference the progress of each candidate in this branch of study.

PLAN OF STUDY FOR GERMAN LOCAL PREACHERS.

*I. For those who wish to be ordained Deacons.*

The Theological Compend of A. Binney, translated by L. S. Jacoby.

Course of study  
for German  
Local Preachers.

N. B. Each doctrine of the Bible to be proved by the Scriptural passages quoted.

Wesley's Sermons, vol. i.

Wesley's Plain Account of Christian Perfection.

Fletcher's Appeal.

Watson's Apology for the Bible.

The whole of the Discipline.

N. B. We recommend the reading of the Compendium of Methodism; D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, vols. i and ii; Kirchofer's Introduction into the Bible.

*II. For those who wish to be ordained Elders.*

Review of all the doctrines of the Bible, and especially concerning the sacraments, with Scriptural proofs.

Wesley's Sermons, vol. ii.

Kurtz's Manual of Sacred History.

Haldane's Genuineness and Divine Inspiration of the Bible.

Wesley's Life and Labors.

Church History according to the Calwer Short Manual.

Bishop Baker's Guide to the Discipline.

A written Sermon on Baptism or the Lord's Supper.

N. B. We recommend the reading of D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, vols. iii and iv; Bogue's Divine Authority of the New Testament, and Zeller's Psychology.

John M'Clintock moved a suspension of the rule requiring any proposed alteration in the Discipline to lie on the table for one day before action be taken thereon, in order to introduce a resolution providing that the next session of the

Motion to suspend the rule in order to change the time of next session.

June 4, 1856. General Conference commence on the second Wednesday of November, A. D. 1860.

Motion to suspend the rule laid on the table. On motion of John A. Collins, the motion to suspend the rule for the purpose specified was laid on the table by a vote of 94 to 50.

Motion to adjourn *sine die*. John A. Collins moved that the Journal be now read, and that, as soon as it is approved, this General Conference shall adjourn *sine die*.

Journals read and approved. The Journal was then read and approved, and at ten minutes past twelve A. M., June 4, A. D. 1856, Conference adjourned with singing the Doxology, and with the benediction by Bishop Ames.

BEVERLY WAUGH,  
THOMAS A. MORRIS,  
EDMUND S. JANES,  
LEVI SCOTT,  
MATTHEW SIMPSON,  
OSMON C. BAKER,  
EDWARD R. AMES,

*Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

WILLIAM L. HARRIS, *Secretary.*

BENJAMIN GRIFFEN,	}	<i>Assistant Secretaries.</i>
JOHN S. MARTIN,		
JEFFERSON LEWIS,		
JAMES HILL,		



## APPENDIX.

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### A.

#### ADDRESS OF THE BISHOPS.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church :*

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN,—That so many of us live to see the twelfth quadrennial session of the delegated General Conference, is an occasion of humble thanksgiving to our heavenly Father. In view of the toils and perils incident to our calling, the extensive range of our work, with all its variety of climate and disease, our preservation is more than could reasonably have been expected. We recognize here with pleasure the friendly countenances, and hear the familiar voices, of many senior brethren, with whom we have long been accustomed to mingle on such occasions, while we greet with equal satisfaction the junior members of the body, who are strong to labor, and who inspire hope for the future. This pleasure is sensibly heightened by the presence of honored brethren, who represent in this body the British and Canada Conferences, organizations to which we sustain a fraternal relation—a relation which it is both our interest and delight to strengthen and perpetuate. We also enjoy the pleasure of having with us the members of the Irish deputation, who visit our Churches to solicit sympathy and aid in their laudable efforts to promote the Wesleyan form of Protestant Christianity in Ireland. The distant fields and diversified interests represented by them, clearly indicate that our beloved Methodism, at once expansive and concentric, can adapt itself to all countries without losing its identity, efficiency, or social excellence. We hail these representatives from different branches of our Father's family as brethren beloved, and welcome them to our country, to our conference, to our homes, and to our hearts.

But several distinguished brethren, whose presence cheered our council four years ago, have finished their earthly pilgrimage and entered the promised rest above, thus reminding us that we are all passing away. Among these, our lamented co-laborers, Davis, Clark, and Gary, whose praise is in all the Churches, will long be remembered with gratitude by thousands for their works' sake. The announcement of their names reminds us of their venerable forms, refreshing counsels, and triumphant deaths. May we follow them as they followed Christ. What changes await us in the four years to come, who can tell? It behooves us in all places, especially here, to act in view of our present responsibility and final reckoning.

To make rules and regulations for twelve thousand ministers and preachers, and about eight hundred thousand communicants, is a highly responsible work, and to perform the task aright, requires much wisdom and calm reflection.

In the exercise of this prerogative, you will, of course, have constant reference to two great principles—to ascertain and provide for the real wants of the Church on the one hand, and to do this without infringing her constitutional “limitations and restrictions” on the other.

Such measures as may be evidently needful and clearly constitutional, should be promptly adopted; but no risk should be taken in regard to such as are of a doubtful character, lest the unity of the body ecclesiastic be periled.

It is with profound respect for, and fraternal confidence in, the judgment of this enlightened body, that we venture upon these general suggestions, and trust they will be received as kindly as they are given.

As to the general work among us, its progress since your last session has, upon the whole, been encouraging. This statement is sustained by satisfactory proof. In 1851 our official Minutes reported 4,450 traveling preachers, 5,700 local preachers, and 721,804 members and probationers; while our Minutes in 1855 give us 5,408 traveling preachers, 6,610 local preachers, and 799,431 members and probationers, showing a net increase during the four years past of 958 traveling preachers, 910 local preachers, and 77,627 members and probationers. The numerical table, however, does not exhibit all the fruit. Our brethren and friends have enlarged their means of usefulness, and their liberality in employing them. To name only a few items: they have evinced a commendable zeal in the erection of houses of worship, both as to the number and style of the edifices; they have made better provision for the support of their ministers and their families, and largely augmented their contributions for missions and other benevolent objects; thus showing a growing attachment to Methodism, and an increasing appreciation of its privileges. While devising these liberal things, they have, at different seasons, and in numerous places, enjoyed “times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.”

And now what we need, above all things, is such humble, active prayer and faith, as will secure a general outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all the preachers and their congregations, attended with convincing truth, godly sorrow, and saving mercy, and resulting in Gospel holiness of heart and life throughout our extended connection. Such a visitation of heavenly influence would reanimate our organization at home, and impart a fresh impulse to our foreign work. Then, too, the Church would arise by faith and assume her true aggressive and missionary character, while her ministers would be clothed with salvation. Revivals of experimental and practical religion develop the resources of the Church, and supply her pulpits and mission fields with living ministers—ministers of Christ’s own choosing, converted, called of God, and filled with faith and the Holy Ghost. These are the ministers needed everywhere, in town and in country, in city and foreign stations; to whom, under God, we may confidently look for success, and without them but little may be expected.

When the number of such ministers is insufficient to meet the demand,

let the Church remember the words of Christ: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." And let all who are thus Divinely called, study to show themselves approved unto God.

In this communication, the general superintendents cheerfully submit for your approval, or correction, their official administration during the last quadrennial term. Our official acts in the annual conferences will be before your committees, as embodied in the journals thereof, and in the General Minutes. Of the thirty-eight annual conferences in the United States and territories, no one has failed to receive our attention, or been left to hold a session without our presidency.

The work on the Pacific coast has been duly attended to, though the fourth annual visit has been postponed until after this General Conference, because of a desired and needful change in the time of holding their annual sessions. In accordance with the recommendation of the last General Conference, that one of us should visit Liberia once or oftener during the last four years, Bishop Scott visited this mission work in the winter of 1852-3, and on hearing his report, and duly considering the subject, we were of the opinion that another episcopal visitation prior to this period was not so important as to require such expense and service.

Thus far our joint superintendence has operated harmoniously, so that in all essential principles and usages of the episcopal administration, as well as in our social relations, we have been blessed with the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace, for which we would be devoutly thankful to our heavenly Father.

#### CHANGES OF DISCIPLINE.

There are some disciplinary regulations collaterally connected with our work, which we judge may properly claim your careful revision; and from the experience secured to us by our official relation to the executive administration, we deem it proper to invite your attention to them.

The rule requiring the concurrent advice of all the annual conferences, to authorize the bishops to call an extra session of the General Conference, we think unnecessarily restrictive. We have now thirty-eight annual conferences, and a probability of more; yet any one of them, though the least of all, might defeat the wishes of all the others in regard to an extra session, whatever might be the necessity for it. We respectfully suggest that any state of affairs which would satisfy three fourths or even two thirds of the annual conferences, and the bishops, that an extra session of the General Conference was really necessary, should be deemed a sufficient reason for calling it.

The number of representatives forming this body renders it too large to transact business with convenience and dispatch, and may perhaps suggest to yourselves, as it does to us, the propriety of reducing the ratio of representation. There is already constitutional provision for such reduction, so as to authorize, at your discretion, not less than one representative for every thirty members of annual conferences.

During the past four years several cases have occurred in which a change of the place of holding the conference has been desired. Two

conferences, the Oregon in 1853, and the Missouri in 1855, were changed from the places appointed at the previous sessions, such a course having been deemed necessary. We commend to your attention the propriety of some disciplinary enactment touching this matter.

Questions frequently arise in our administration respecting the responsibility of trustees of our Church property, and how far they are subject to the control of quarterly conference action, and we would suggest that this relation be defined by some explicit enactment.

The section defining the method of proceeding against accused traveling ministers is attended with much difficulty in its practical application. Among the difficulties complained of are the following: The law of evidence is not well digested or fully defined; of course conferences and parties are liable to be perplexed. The tribunals are too large to hope for the undivided attention of all the members during the progress of a complex case, and the loss of time is afflictive to a large body of pastors, anxious to be with their families and flocks. Some cases require nearly a week to dispose of them, during which all other business is suspended. Suppose a conference of one hundred members spend four days on a trial, then four hundred days of ministerial labor are lost from the great work of their vocation; and so in proportion to the size of the conference, and the time consumed in each case.

We suggest whether a tribunal, consisting of a select number of the conference, might not be formed, and authorized to try all cases of complaint against its members, as private members are tried by a select number of the society, without detaining the bishop and conference from their other duties. A select number, not exceeding fifteen, could investigate a case more conveniently, and secure the ends of justice more readily, if not more certainly, than a conference of one hundred or one hundred and fifty.

Similar difficulties are felt in trying appeals by this body. Cases may come before you so complex and voluminous, that the mere reading of the papers pertaining to one of them could scarcely be accomplished in a whole day, to say nothing of the time spent in the pleadings. And to expect the fixed attention of over two hundred delegates, hurried with other important business, two or three days to one case, is unreasonable. Besides, under the present rule, it often occurs that a brother expelled or suspended, cannot have his appeal heard, and his case finally determined, for three years or more.

To obviate these difficulties two plans have been suggested. One is a delegated annual conference, composed of one member from each annual conference, with authority to try all appeals, whether from the decision of an annual conference or that of a select number of it, without occupying the General Conference with them, or subjecting parties to injurious and needless delay. The same delegated annual conference, if deemed advisable, could be authorized to investigate complaints against a bishop, allowing him an appeal to the General Conference. It will be remembered that attention was called to this subject at your session of 1848, and that it was resumed in 1852, but under the pressure of many interests it was left with a mass of unfinished business. The chief objection we have heard to this plan is the expense and loss of time involved in attend-



ing such conference. But it is doubtful whether it would cost more time or much more money than the present system of trying appeals. The bishops have to meet yearly after the conferences are over, and could easily connect their meeting with that of the delegated annual conference.

The other plan suggested for relief, is a District Conference of Appeals in every episcopal district, composed of two delegates from each annual conference within its jurisdiction, to be held annually after the other conferences are over, and authorized to try appeals from the decisions of annual and quarterly conferences within its bounds, a bishop presiding. This District Conference, while it would not have cognizance of complaints against bishops, as in the other plan, might answer so far as appeals are concerned from the annual and quarterly conferences. If the members and ministers of our Church have the right of trial by committee, and of appeal to a new and competent tribunal, their constitutional rights are secured. These are grave matters, and worthy of patient consideration by the General Conference. As cases of trial and appeal increase in proportion as our ministers, traveling and local, multiply, every year's experience renders some relief more and more desirable.

THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE CHURCH claim a large share of your attention, and we feel assured will receive all the consideration which their admitted importance demands. We will briefly refer to a few of these.

#### EDUCATION.

In presenting to the notice of the General Conference this important subject, it affords us a high degree of gratification to report this department as being in a prosperous condition. The Methodist Episcopal Church, almost simultaneously with its organization, manifested commendable zeal in arranging plans for the diffusion of elementary literature and science. The success of those efforts was not equal to the reasonable expectations of the friends of learning; and after the disastrous fire which destroyed the edifice of Cokesbury College, there was for some years but little progress made in carrying into effect the early design of the Church. Indeed, in connection with, and growing out of, disheartening failures, a state of apparent indifference and inertness supervened. But from this supineness the Church has been fully aroused for the last fourth of a century, and the extent and vigor of its action in the prosecution of this cardinal interest, give good ground for confident expectation that Methodism will never again be second to any of the Churches of Christendom in the prosecution of this grand enterprise. There are, under the patronage and supervision of our Church, fourteen chartered institutions, under the name and style of university or college, in which liberal education is as thoroughly and successfully imparted as in similar schools under the supervision of other denominations, or of state authorities. Hundreds of the sons of our members and friends are being trained annually in these institutions for posts of honor and usefulness in the state and in the Church. In addition to these, we have some seventy or more academies or seminaries, most of them of a high grade, affording ample literary advantages to our youth of both sexes. Several of these institutions, however, some of them with

collegiate powers, are exclusively appropriated to female education. In these institutions there are large numbers of young ladies (and their number is annually increasing) who are being prepared to fill with dignity and ability the very important stations to which they are destined, in the progress of time, in the domestic, social, and religious circles of life. It is cause of devout thankfulness to God that our institutions of learning are so frequently blessed with revivals of religion. We commend to the continued fostering care of the General Conference and of the Church, all our educational interests. We would suggest, and we hope without giving offense, that the number of our colleges may be augmented injuriously to the general cause of liberal education; and, also, if there were a less liberal use of the high-sounding title of university, in connection with our literary institutions, it would bring them into no disesteem with the thoughtful and discriminating.

If Biblical schools were yet to be organized, it is not probable that we should feel called upon to make any allusion to them. But they actually exist at two points, and prospectively, perhaps, at others. Several annual conferences, both East and West, have approved and patronized them, while other conferences are aiming to accomplish similar results by Biblical departments connected with literary institutions. If it be the judgment of the Church that Biblical schools are desirable, then we would suggest, with due deference to all concerned, that they should be of a connectional character, and in some way responsible to the General Conference, so that their management and teaching shall be in harmony with the doctrines and Discipline of the Church.

#### PUBLISHING INTEREST.

It gives us great pleasure to state that the publishing interest has gone forward during the last four years in a course of steady and encouraging prosperity. For details we refer you to the reports of the Book Agents and Book Committees; but the following statements, drawn mainly from these reports, exhibit the present highly satisfactory condition of this great interest.

The number of subscribers to our various periodicals is as follows:

Christian Advocate and Journal.....	29,875
Western Christian Advocate.....	28,718
Northern Christian Advocate.....	15,000
Northwestern Christian Advocate.....	10,033
Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.....	8,000
Sunday-School Advocate.....	114,692
Missionary Advocate.....	34,000
Christian Apologist, (German,).....	6,967
Quarterly Review.....	2,721
National Magazine.....	15,875
Ladies' Repository.....	29,580

The whole number of subscribers to our various periodicals is 285,461; and the whole number of single copies of these useful publications, issued and scattered abroad in a year, is 9,097,840.

The Sunday-school, the Tract, and General Catalogues have been enlarged during the last four years by the addition of 543 new works, including 314 bound volumes, and 229 tracts. The Sunday-school Library, in its various series, now numbers 1,066 volumes.

The list of tract publications has already reached the respectable number of 72 tract volumes, and 585 tracts, including quite a number in the German, Swedish, and Danish languages; and the whole number of separate copies of books and tracts, large and small, issued by the two Conferences during the last four years, is 15,588,926, including 7,226,409 bound volumes, and 8,362,517 tracts and pamphlets.

#### THE TRACT CAUSE.

The action of the last General Conference in reference to the tract cause gave a new impulse to this important enterprise. Nearly all the annual conferences have formed auxiliaries; liberal contributions have been received; and the distribution of tracts and books, both by Churches and colporteurs, has been greatly increased. The system, however, is not yet fully matured, and the uniformity and consistency of action requisite for complete success have not yet been attained. We trust that this subject will receive your careful consideration.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Sunday-school cause is certainly among the most efficient auxiliaries of the Gospel ministry. It is the hope of our children, and they are the hope of the Church. By our published reports, it appears that we have an aggregate of 10,469 Sunday schools, 113,159 officers and teachers, and 579,126 scholars, making a very gratifying increase in this department during the past four years.

We would particularly invite your attention to the section of the Discipline respecting the religious instruction of children, and would suggest that such modifications be made as will place our children more fully under the watch-care and instruction of the Church, and especially that a more detailed plan be devised, which will render the pastoral duty there specified more practical.

#### MISSIONS.

Though the annual contributions to our Parent Missionary Society have not increased during the last year or two, yet the average amount for the last four years greatly exceeds that of any former period. Through the coöperation of this society our itinerant ministry has kept pace with the enlarging fields upon our Western frontier, embracing the work in California, and in the territories of Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Kansas, and Nebraska. Assistance has been given to societies in sparsely settled portions of the country, and new churches have been erected in the suburbs of our growing cities. The foreign population annually crowding our shores and settling in all parts of our territory, has received the attention of the Missionary Board. The work among the Germans has continued to enlarge and prosper. The efforts among the Scandinavian immigrants

have been very successful, and missions among the Welsh and French are still favored with a measure of prosperity.

The foreign department of our missionary work has continued to share largely in the interest and attention, both of the Church and the Board. No stations in foreign lands have been abandoned, and most of them have been enlarged. The Liberia Mission Conference has been prosperous, and is gradually strengthening.

Additional missionaries have been sent to strengthen our important and interesting mission in China, and also to South America. Missionaries have been sent to Norway and Sweden, and already a good degree of success has been enjoyed, and the prospect of usefulness in the future is encouraging. A mission has been established in India, and one of our active and esteemed brethren has recently sailed for that land as superintendent. The mission in Germany has been highly prosperous. There will, probably, be a memorial before you from our brethren there, requesting that they may be constituted a Mission Annual Conference, with authority to receive preachers and elect them to orders under the provision of the Discipline governing such cases. The mission in Germany has ever been regarded with much favor by our brethren and friends, and has been signally owned and blessed of God; and we doubt not that the General Conference will be disposed to promote its interest by all lawful and practicable means at their command. For details we refer you to the superintendent of that mission, who is present.

Your special attention will again be needed to the wants of our brethren on the western coast of Africa, more particularly as to the exercise of episcopal functions. Two points are clear to us: first, that episcopal authority on the spot is very desirable for the interest of the mission in Liberia; secondly, that it cannot be regularly furnished from this country without embarrassing our home work. How it may best be supplied is for you to determine. Three modes have been suggested: first, for the General Conference to appoint a bishop, and send him to organize them as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Africa; second, to let them organize themselves, elect their bishop, and send him to us for ordination; third, to appoint a missionary bishop to take charge of that work, we retaining jurisdiction over it. As this subject has received much attention from you heretofore, we shall not dwell upon it; but we trust you will be able to make such provision as will secure the best interests of all concerned. But whatever disposition may be made of the case, we hope the brethren of Liberia will never cease to receive our Christian sympathy, and that the missionary dividend will be continued to them as long as they need and properly use it.

The chief obstacle encountered in prosecuting our foreign work, arises from the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number of missionaries of suitable qualifications. There are frequent and embarrassing delays in organizing missions, and getting them under way; and when on the spot, active movements in beginning the work are necessarily deferred for want of sufficient information as to the language, laws, customs, and manners of the inhabitants. In some instances, before these difficulties are overcome, and the work fairly commenced, the missionaries become discouraged on account of the climate, or the small prospect of immediate success, and



quit the field. Thus double expense is incurred in going and returning; much time is lost, and the enterprise embarrassed, if not defeated, and the natives still left in the darkness and misery of sin, and on the way to perdition. We need a class of brethren who will deliberately make up their minds to take this work for life, and adhere to it through weal and woe.

Some look for relief to a Missionary Seminary, where, under competent preceptors, candidates might be directed in such a course of reading and study as would prepare them for their particular fields of labor, and where brethren set apart for the foreign work would be comparatively free from temptation to turn aside to other pursuits.

Having thus adverted to the embarrassments connected with this subject, we submit it to your consideration to provide a remedy.

#### SLAVERY.

In compliance with the request of the Troy, Erie, North Ohio, and Wisconsin Conferences, different resolutions, asking a change in the General Rule on slavery, were laid before all the annual conferences for their concurrence. The result will be found by inspection of the Journals; but, we believe, no one of these resolutions received the constitutional majority of the members of the annual conferences. In view of this fact, the question may arise, whether this body has authority to change the Discipline upon this subject so as to affect membership in the Church. We are aware that it is difficult to separate the consideration of the desirableness of any measure from its constitutionality, and especially so where deep feeling on the subject may exist. Yet we think it to be our duty to express our strong doubts whether, in view of the restricted powers of a delegated General Conference, any measure equivalent to a change in the General Rules can be constitutionally adopted without the concurrence of the annual conferences. As to the propriety of any modifications not of such a character as to conflict with the constitutional economy of the Church, while opinions and views may be various, we can fully confide in the wisdom of this General Conference as the supreme council of the Church.

In our administration in the territory where slavery exists, we have been careful not to transcend in any instance, or in any respect, what we understood to be the will and direction of the General Conference. That body having retained its jurisdiction over conferences previously existing in such territory, and having directed the organization of additional conferences, it became our duty to arrange the districts, circuits, and stations, and to superintend them as an integral part of the Church. As the result, we have six annual conferences which are wholly or in part in slave territory. These conferences have a white Church membership, including probationers, of more than one hundred and forty-three thousand, with the attendants upon our ministry making a probable population of between five and six hundred thousand. They have a colored Church membership, including probationers, of more than twenty-eight thousand, with the attendants upon our ministry making a probable population of upward of a hundred thousand. A portion of this population are slaves. The others are mostly poor. They are generally strongly

attached to the Church of their choice, and look to it confidently for ministerial services, religious sympathy, and all the offices of Christian kindness. The white membership in these conferences, in respect to intelligence, piety, and attachment to Methodist Discipline and economy, will compare favorably with other portions of the Church.

In our judgment, the existence of these conferences and Churches under their present circumstances, does not tend to extend or perpetuate slavery. They are known to be organized under a Discipline which characterizes slavery as a great evil; which makes the slaveholder ineligible to any official station in the Church, where the laws of the state in which he lives will admit of emancipation, and permit the liberated slave to enjoy freedom; which disfranchises a traveling minister who by any means becomes the owner of a slave or slaves, unless he executes, if it be practicable, a legal emancipation of such slaves, conformably to the laws of the state wherein he lives; which makes it the duty of all the ministers to enforce upon all the members the necessity of teaching their slaves to read the word of God, and allowing them time to attend upon the public worship of God on our regular days of Divine service; which prohibits the buying and selling of men, women, and children with an intention to enslave them, and inquires what shall be done for the extirpation of the evil of slavery.

With this Discipline freely circulated among the people, or certainly within the reach of any who desire to examine it, and with other Churches existing in the same territory without these exactments, these societies and conferences have, either by elective affinity adhered to, or from preference associated with, the Methodist Episcopal Church. In a few instances their Church relations have exposed them to some peril, and in numerous cases to sacrifices. But such have been their moral worth, and Christian excellence, and prudent conduct, that generally they have been permitted to enjoy their religious immunities, and serve and worship God according to their consciences.

And now, brethren, in conclusion, will you suffer the word of exhortation? We have long regretted two things connected with General Conference proceedings, namely, needless loss of time in the early part of the session, and too much haste toward its termination. We trust that on this occasion both will be avoided; that the Conference will enter upon its duties promptly, and that every member will patiently remain at his post until every part of it is duly considered and regularly disposed of. We trust your deliberations will be characterized by fraternal courtesy and a devotional spirit. May the Spirit of all grace descend upon you, and upon the whole Church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEVERLY WAUGH,  
THOMAS A. MORRIS,  
EDMUND S. JAMES,  
LEVI SCOTT,  
MATTHEW SIMPSON,  
OSMON C. BAKER,  
EDWARD R. AMES.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 3, 1856.

## B.

## ADDRESS OF THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

*To the Reverend the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States :*

LONDON, April 1, 1856.

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN : This letter will, we trust, be delivered to you by the Rev. John Hannah, D. D., the representative appointed by the Conference held at Leeds, in August last, to attend the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Indianapolis, and the Rev. Frederic James Jobson, appointed to accompany and assist Dr. Hannah. The ministers assembled at the Conference had sincere pleasure in thus deputing two of their highly esteemed brethren to visit your General Conference, and to convey to you in person the assurance of that affectionate and respectful regard which they cherish for the Church over which you preside, and their cordial desire for the maintenance of such relations between the two bodies as befit their common origin and their substantial unity. We have sincerely regretted the occurrence of any circumstances capable of being so misconstrued, as to seem indicative of a diminished regard for you and your Church ; and we take this opportunity of again assuring you that, notwithstanding the absence of a representative from us at your last General Conference, and the accidental and inexplicable failure of our communication in 1849, we have never ceased to love you as brethren, to honor you as the Lord's instruments for accomplishing a great spiritual work, to rejoice in your stability and increase, and to wish you all possible comfort and usefulness. But on these matters we will not further enlarge, nor do we think it needful now to enter into extended statements concerning the circumstances and prospects of our connection. These will be fully represented to you by our representative and his companion. It has afforded us much satisfaction that this mission of fraternal love has been undertaken by brethren so eminently qualified to convey all needful information respecting our affairs and our habitual sentiments toward you. Still less necessary is it for us to bespeak for them your confidence and kindness. Dr. Hannah is not unknown to you, having accompanied the venerable Mr. Reece to your General Conference more than thirty years ago ; and were he without this advantage, we are persuaded that you would not fail to "receive him and his companion in the Lord as becometh saints." A recent instance of your kindness in this respect to the deputation sent by the last Irish Conference to solicit help for the work of God in Ireland, is fully appreciated by us, and will doubtless be (in due time) suitably acknowledged by the proper parties. During the last few weeks we have heard with deep concern rumors of disagreements, involving apprehensions of hostility, between the United States and Great Britain, but we trust that they are rather to be regarded as arising from complications of political partisanship than as implying a prevalent national sentiment, or even a grave purpose or tendency on the part of

the rulers of either country. Most sincerely should we (and we doubt not you also) deplore that any misunderstanding should be allowed to sever those bonds of fraternal amity and common interest in which our respective countries have so long been held, and to plunge into war the two nations who ought to be most closely united. Our mutual prayers will, we trust, avail with the great Ruler of nations to avert so dire a calamity. Accept, dear and reverend brethren, in conclusion, our best wishes for the blessing of God upon yourselves and your approaching Conference, and for the continual prosperity of his work throughout the widely-extended region over which your charge extends. May he make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen.

Signed in behalf and by order of the Conference,

ISAAC KEELING, President.

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### C.

#### REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE BRITISH CONFERENCE.

*The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States to the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Great Britain, to assemble at Bristol on Wednesday, July 30, 1856:*

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: Your fraternal letter from London, of April 1. 1856, addressed to our bishops, was presented and read to this Conference on the second day of our session. At the same time were introduced to the Conference your and our highly-esteemed brethren, Dr. Hannah and Mr. Jobson; now much more highly esteemed in love, for their works' sake, since they have exercised among us the "ministry of reconciliation," proclaiming to us "the love of Christ which passeth knowledge," and have gone in and out among us, socially and officially, for many days.

We cordially thank you, dear brethren, for sending among us, for a season, these "servants of the Most High God." In Dr. Hannah many of our elder brethren have rejoiced to meet a minister of Christ in the full maturity of years and wisdom; whom you have now twice made your president; whom they saw and heard in the fervor of his youthful zeal.

In Mr. Jobson, his clerical companion, we found a Wesleyan minister, whose cultivated taste, genial spirit, fervent mind, and evangelical ministry, enshrined him in our warmest love, and led us to hope that we, or our successors, may again see and hear him in our "delightful land."

These brethren beloved have told us of the times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, with which you have been favored since the last "troublesome times" in which you have been tried. In this we do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. God has also sent us prosperity. In the



four years since our last General Conference we have greatly enlarged our bounds and increased our numbers. Our Minutes show a net addition of nine hundred and fifty-eight traveling preachers, nine hundred and ten local preachers, and seventy-seven thousand six hundred and twenty-seven members and probationers. Our missionary contributions have exceeded former times, and our missions, domestic and foreign, have been signally honored by the One Father, who is above all, and through all, and in us all.

You will learn from the proceedings of this Conference, that we have taken measures to aid our brethren and yours in Ireland, by men and means, and instructed the delegates who may be elected to attend your Conference also to visit the Irish Conference.

We heartily reciprocate your prayers for unbroken peace between our kindred and Protestant nations, to whom the God of all the families of the earth has committed so many great trusts. May the Prince of Peace continue to avert war, and unite us *forever* in "the bond of peace." Thus may we,

"One in heart, in interest, and design,  
Gird up each other for the race divine;"

until God, by us,

"Shall fill the earth with golden fruit,  
With ripe millennial love."

We have chosen as our honored representatives, Rev. Matthew Simpson, D. D., one of our seven bishops; and as co-delegate, John M'Clinck, D. D., well known on your side of the ocean: men who have been highly approved among our Churches, and honored of God.

In conclusion, reverend and dear fathers and brethren, we commend you to God, and pray that our love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment, that we may approve things that are excellent, that we may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

INDIANAPOLIS, *June 3, 1856.*

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## D.

### ADDRESS OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CONFERENCE IN CANADA.

*To the Reverend the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in conference assembled:*

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: "Grace be unto you, and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ."

Permit us, your sons and brethren in the Gospel, to present to you our respectful acknowledgments for the kind and affectionate manner in which you received our representative, the Rev. Dr. Green, as well as

for the appointment of a distinguished member of your body to represent you in our Conference. We anticipated with much pleasure the visit of Mr. Gary to our country, but have to regret that he was removed from his high position in the Church militant, before our anticipations were realized. We sympathize with you in this bereavement, which has not only removed from your ranks "a brother whose praise was in all the Churches," but in the absence of any substitute to fill his place, has for a season deprived us of that interchange of personal communication which is so desirable and beneficial.

It is a matter of much thankfulness to the Divine Being, that while, year after year, he is removing to their eternal reward the fathers of the Church—those holy, self-denying veterans who first planted Churches in the wilds of America—he is also raising up a promising class of young men, filled with faith and the Holy Ghost, to carry on the glorious warfare.

We regret that no address has reached us from the last session of your venerable body; but the want of a letter from you has, in some degree, been supplied by the good tidings brought back by our own representative, and from other authentic sources, by which we rejoice to learn that you have peace in all your borders, and are blessed with a good degree of prosperity throughout your entire work.

Your noble efforts in the cause of religious and collegiate education are above all praise. These combined and continued efforts to form and elevate the moral and intellectual character of the rising generation, cannot fail, we think, to inspire confidence in the wisdom of your councils, and confer lasting and untold benefits upon the country at large.

We have looked with the liveliest interest upon your missionary operations, and especially upon the extension of your work in *foreign lands*. The position you occupy is onerous and commanding. For a long time the first Church in your country in point of *numbers*, and now also in point of *wealth*, it cannot but be gratifying to all the lovers of our Zion, to notice the zeal with which you employ the appliances at command in sending abroad the "glad tidings" of salvation.

At home, God has enabled you to turn a barren wilderness into a fruitful field, and make the "desert rejoice and blossom as the rose;" and we praise God on your behalf, that he has enabled you to send back the pure flame of the Gospel truth, to bless the country of Luther, and re-illumine the land of the Reformation.

Accept, dear brethren, our best wishes and fervent prayers, that in these and in all other departments of your great and widely-extending operations, the blessings of the Lord may continue to rest upon you, causing you to abound more and more in every good word and work; for, while he is your leader, "ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree, and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle-tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

It will, we doubt not, afford you much pleasure to learn that the present is a happy and prosperous day with us in Canada. The demon

of discord is not permitted, as formerly, to scatter his "firebrands, arrows, and death." Peace reigns in our Church; joy dwells in our hearts, and God, even our God, is causing us to triumph in every department of the work committed to our care. Our people take a deep interest and manifest a growing liberality in supporting the institutions of the Church. Since we last addressed you they have doubled their contributions for the sustentation of our missions. All our connectional funds are well sustained, and we can recollect no period in our Church's history when so many beautiful and commodious edifices were being erected for Divine worship as at the present time.

Victoria College is increasing in popularity and usefulness, and we are making arrangements for a more thorough and liberal training of such young men in our Church as are called to the Christian ministry.

The field of our operations has been greatly enlarged of late, by the union and consolidation of Wesleyan Methodism in the two Canadas and the Hudson's Bay Territory. By mutual arrangements between us and the British Conference, all the Wesleyan societies throughout this vast region of country have been placed under our care. A wide field for benevolent and Christian enterprise is thus opened up before us—a field extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, and from the great Lakes to the Arctic regions, everywhere dotted with human beings waiting for the bread of life.

We have much reason to be thankful for the measure of success which has crowned our missionary efforts among the Indian tribes and newly-settled portions of country. Our missionaries are pioneering these rough and rugged portions of the field, as did your fathers aforetime; new missions are being every year formed, and yet the cry is continually heard, "Come over and help us." In the strength of Divine grace, and in constant dependence upon that assistance which such grace alone can impart, we hope to continue our efforts until the "wilderness shall" indeed "become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest." But we are not ignorant of the difficulties that lie in our way, and the combinations of error with which we must constantly contend.

We have the most unwavering confidence in the Gospel we preach. We know it to be the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and must eventually subdue the world to the obedience of Christ. But, while we are thus confident, and can have no doubt of the final issue, we are reminded by the increasing boldness of our foes, and the dangerous leaven of error which is working in different portions of the community, that we have something more to do than to "hold fast the form of sound words," which our fathers have left for our guidance. Popery, with its kindred errors, is still rampant in our land. The bold manner in which its emissaries are endeavoring to revive that ancient heresy which seeks to extinguish that light which *the Reformation with an open Bible* has shed upon the world, admonishes us, not only to contend earnestly for the "faith once delivered to the saints," but carefully to watch over our own spirits and affections, that we may constantly experience the rich benefits of deep personal piety, and preach

the incorruptible truths of the Gospel under the abiding influences of God the Spirit.

We have appointed as our representatives to your venerable body, our honored and much respected brethren, the Rev. Enoch Wood, President of the Conference, (should he be able to attend, or the Rev. John Ryerson, co-delegate,) and the Rev. Richard Jones; brethren beloved, in whose piety and judgment we have the utmost confidence; and to whom we refer you for any further information which you may desire concerning our affairs.

That you may abound more and more in every good word and work, and see the Church committed to your care rise still higher in piety, liberality, and general usefulness, is the constant prayer, dear brethren, of your sons in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Signed in behalf of the Conference.

LONDON, C. W., June, 1855.

S. D. RICE, Secretary.

## E.

### REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE CANADA CONFERENCE.

*To the Members of the Canada Wesleyan Methodist Conference:*

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN: We rejoice in another opportunity of renewing our former assurances of love and good-will.

The presence among us of the two honored representatives of your Conference, the Rev. John Ryerson and the Rev. Richard Jones, has had the effect to bind our hearts more closely to yours in the strong bonds of Christian charity, while their public ministrations among us have also tended, we trust, to draw our affections more and more to heavenly things. The familiar Christian intercourse and fellow-feeling of these excellent brethren, united with similar manifestations of the same spirit, from the delegates of the British and Irish Wesleyan Conferences, have, both by word and deed, brought home to our hearts in all its sweetness, the truth of that often repeated, but always refreshing declaration, that "Wesleyan Methodism is *one* in all the earth."

We have learned, with unfeigned gratitude to the Giver of all good, both from your fraternal letter, and also more in detail from your representatives, of your continued and even increasing prosperity. Your zeal and your success, in your great enterprises of Christian benevolence, inspire a glorious hope for your future. The peace that reigns in all your borders; the liberality of your contributions to benevolent purposes; your increasing educational facilities; your self-sacrificing ministry; your rapidly-multiplying Churches; your success in saving souls; your wide-spreading missionary fields; your unshaken confidence in "the God of our fathers," all impress upon us the pleasing conviction that your growth is rapid, symmetrical, and healthy. May



"the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus," prosper you yet more and more.

You will rejoice, we doubt not, to learn, that, through God's blessing upon our labors, we have been able, through each succeeding year, to push forward our Christian enterprises with increasing activity and power. Our periodicals, our missionary, tract, and Sunday-school reports, so available to you, make it unnecessary that we should, in this paper, go into particular detail in relation to these interests. Suffice it to say, that in all these departments there is increasing activity throughout our connection. The blessing of God upon the faithful labors of our fathers, has placed within our reach the means of carrying forward these enterprises, on a scale of larger dimensions than their founders would have dared to anticipate.

The increasing attention everywhere given to the erection of commodious and substantial church edifices, while it has afforded but an inadequate supply to an increasing demand, is yet, we trust, an encouraging indication of that permanence which must ever be an object dear to every enlightened friend of our Zion.

The last four years have witnessed a gratifying increase in the membership of our Church. From 1851 to 1855, the average net increase per annum was more than nineteen thousand souls; and from the cheering accounts of revivals in all parts of our wide-spread connection, we judge that the Minutes of 1856 will show a much larger annual increase. These fruits of the Gospel, we think, afford evidence that "God is with us." The conversion of the soul to God through our instrumentality, the restoration of the fallen spirit to the Divine image, is to us a cheering indication that God owns our labors. May we never be destitute of this evidence of Christ speaking in us.

We trust the same gracious Providence, which has guided our more directly religious movements, has also led our way in the educational departments of our Church.

Within the memory of men now living, there have grown up in our midst, and under our own control, nearly one hundred literary institutions of a high rank, embracing universities, colleges for both sexes, and first-class seminaries. Perhaps in no other department has so large a ratio of conversions taken place as in these institutions of learning.

You will doubtless be gratified to learn that an effort to more thoroughly infuse the religious element into our colleges and universities, meets with great favor from all parts of our Church. We allude to the establishment of *Biblical Departments* in these institutions.

While an antiquated and sickly superstition leads its votaries to withhold from the multitude a book, whose teachings are of infinitely higher value to the race than those of all other books of all ages, we are determined that the Bible, *The Book*, shall have a prominent place in all departments of education within our control. We fear the word of God has not hitherto exerted that influence in molding the character, tastes, and habits of our students of learning, which would have made them wiser and better men. While the student communes with heathen poets, heathen philosophers, and heathen historians, shall he fail to find in the college course that most sublime poetry, that most pure philoso-

phy, that most ancient and most reliable history, given by God's own inspiration? While heathen gods are everywhere speaking to the student, shall not the living God utter his voice? While the student sees everywhere heathen sacrifices smoking upon heathen altars, shall he not lift up his eyes to the great atoning Sacrifice whose blood cleanseth from all sin? While all science, truly so called, imparts a knowledge of God, unfolding his methods in the earth and in the heavens, the science of salvation, God's method of bringing earth's teeming millions to glory, is infinitely above all else, and deserves the corresponding attention of mankind.

We congratulate you on the confidence you express in the Gospel of the Son of God, as altogether suited to human wants. We rejoice in the same confidence. The Gospel in its simplicity—the Gospel as “the power of God unto salvation”—the Gospel proclaimed by men who feel its saving power—preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, is God's remedy for this world's woes. The only thing that is wrong in this world is the human heart. The only remedy for this wrong is the “Gospel of the grace of God.” “Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.”

Finally, dearly beloved brethren, may you, and we, and all ministers of the Lord Jesus, in every place, preach these doctrines fully, faithfully, *earnestly*; “warning every man, and teaching every man, in all wisdom: that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Then shall we, in our day and generation, contribute something toward the ushering in of that happy period, when “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf, and the young lion, and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.” \* \* \* \* When “they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

We have selected as our delegates to your reverend body, our much-esteemed brethren, the Rev. Minor Raymond, the Rev. William Hamilton, and the Rev. L. W. Berry, who will bear to you, by God's good providence, our Christian salutations, and whose intercourse with you, we trust, shall tend to our mutual love and edification.

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## F.

### ADDRESS OF THE IRISH CONFERENCE.

*To the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America:*

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: We, the ministers of the Methodist Connection in Ireland, now assembled in our Annual Conference, beg leave respectfully to commend to your fraternal regards the Rev. Robinson Scott, an accredited member of our body, and deputed

by us to visit your country on an important mission, the object of which is set forth in the "Minutes" of our present sittings, and which he is able more fully to explain.

As a religious body, both we and our beloved people, in common with other evangelical denominations, have, for some years past, been more than ordinarily impressed with the conviction that the recent visitations of Providence upon this, in many respects unhappy land, are a loud call for more vigorous efforts on our part to develop to the utmost every possible *resource*, in order to give the Gospel to the masses of our fellow-countrymen. We have, however, labored under circumstances of great discouragement. By emigration, and the estrangement of our youth, through want of educational institutions, in which they might receive a religious training, in accordance with our own views, our numerical strength has been greatly diminished. Besides, our connectional funds, designed to extend the work of God in the neglected and destitute parts of the country, being required to sustain our ministry on depressed circuits, such extensive aggressive operations as are required by the circumstances of our country, and which we are persuaded would be attended with the Divine approbation and much success, have hitherto been impossible.

Calling to mind, however, the successes which attended the labors of our fathers, the vitality of the truths committed to our trust, and to which the Lord continues most encouragingly to set his seal, the adaptation of our system for a yet more extensive appliance of those truths, together with the advantages of a position, from which, were the means at our disposal, it would be easy to embrace every hamlet in the land, we, in conjunction with many of the more influential members of our societies, have been led not only to endeavor after an improved state of things in our existing circuits, but to aim at a connectional movement, whereby, through the Divine blessing, a new impulse might be given to the energies of our whole system.

In the meantime private communications from several Irish emigrants, together with editorial and other articles in Methodist publications, which circulate widely in the United States, encouraged the assurance that such a movement would meet with extensive practical sympathy from our American brethren, and that a deputation on its behalf would be favorably received, an assurance which was otherwise naturally induced by the consideration that numbers now in the American Churches are the children of Irish Methodists, or themselves the direct fruit of Irish Methodist labors.

A meeting was accordingly held in connection with our present Conference, composed of all its members and of lay friends from different parts of the kingdom, and a subscription opened, which reached the cheering amount of £8,800, as the basis of a fund for the increase of the Wesleyan Methodist agency in Ireland; nor will that meeting be less remembered for the spirit of simple piety and fervent gratitude, than for the noble expression of liberality which characterized its proceedings. Deputations have been appointed to visit all our circuits and missions, and we confidently expect that the amount will be considerably augmented. We have named £20,000 as a *minimum*; but if, by

the liberality of our friends in Ireland and in America, a much larger sum could be obtained, we should be able to carry out our aggressive operations upon the masses of our countrymen, upon a scale more extensive and permanently efficient.

To secure the required amount it was resolved to request the Conference to appoint a deputation to the United States and Canada, and, in compliance with that request, Brother Robinson Scott has been set apart for this service. He possesses the full confidence of his brethren, and is followed by their prayers, that the cause which he pleads may obtain favor among your people, and that his ministry and intercourse may be the means also of imparting some spiritual benefit.

The Conference have also addressed a letter to the Missionary Committee in London, requesting that the valuable services of their gifted countryman, the Rev. William Arthur, A. M., one of the General Secretaries, may be granted for the purposes of the deputation; and as he has kindly signified his willingness to undertake this labor of love for his native country, it is confidently hoped that at a period of the year most suited to the convenience of the committee, this request will be granted.

At the request of the Conference, Alderman M'Arthur, of Londonderry, who takes a deep interest in our cause, has consented to afford his services also for a short time during the spring of next year.

Our highly esteemed friend and father, the Rev. Thomas Waugh, who, we have reason to believe, is well known to you by character, in connexion with the services which he has so long rendered to Wesleyan Methodism in Ireland, has been requested to write a private note to each bishop individually, and it is expected his communication will have arrived before the presentation of this document.

We cherish the confidence, venerable brethren, that you will receive our deputation affectionately, and, by your counsel and the influence of your high position, facilitate the object of their mission, bearing as it ultimately must on the well-being of your own Churches and nation, which will continue to receive yearly accessions from the population whose moral and spiritual interests it is designed more immediately to promote, as well as upon the interests of Methodism in this benighted land.

Signed on behalf and by order of the Conference.

JOHN FARRAR, *President.*

JOHN F. MATTHEWS, *Secretary.*

BELFAST, *June 28, 1855.*

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## G.

### REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE IRISH CONFERENCE.

REVEREND FATHERS AND BRETHREN: Your fraternal letter, presented to us by your representative, the Rev. Robinson Scott, was received with the highest gratification, and the kind greetings of your deputation have met with a most hearty response. We trust that the intercourse



which you have commenced will continue, and always be to our mutual edification and comfort.

You have already, we presume, been advised of the kind reception with which Rev. Messrs. Scott, Arthur, and Cather, have met in this country, both from our beloved superintendents, and our hospitable people.

All our bishops have commended *them* to the fraternal regards of our membership, and their *cause* to the consideration of an enlightened Protestant public.

Every annual conference before which they have appeared has promptly, cheerfully, and strongly given its commendation to their mission, and every Church to which they have applied has received them kindly. Already have forty-three thousand dollars been subscribed, and we have not the least doubt that this amount can easily be raised to one hundred thousand.

We look with the deepest interest and sympathy upon Irish Methodists. Were we in your circumstances, and you in ours, we should probably take the liberty to draw upon you for aid on the warrant of the golden rule, and expect the draft to be honored. We cannot, therefore, blame you for making a check upon us, nor hesitate to cancel it. We thank you for the confidence you repose in us. You honor us; and had Providence given us the gold as He has to our people, we would pour it out to your messengers as God pours the streams at our feet.

We commend your deputation anew to American Protestantism generally, and American Methodism specially. Your effort is an attempt to purify one of the great fountains of our foreign population, and you have a claim upon all Protestants, while you have a particular demand upon us, founded not only upon our common origin and common faith, but upon the fact that the very foundations of our American Methodist Church were laid by Irishmen, and that a large portion of her ministry and membership are natives of your island.

We humbly trust that your deputation will continue in this country until the sum named shall have been realized, although it may detain them for months to come. It may be the order of Divine Providence that we should derive largely of your spiritual gifts, before you derive largely of our temporal gifts.

It is cheering to us to see your grand connectional movement: it shows the vitality of our doctrines. May you continue your efforts, under the blessing of God, until your missionaries and schoolmasters shall preach and teach in every district, your colporteurs read the word of God in every hamlet, and your college supply the educational wants of all your youth.

Should it be in our power, at any time, to aid you by men or means, in spreading Scriptural holiness over your land, we trust that you will readily and confidently command us.

## H.

## ADDRESS FROM THE FRENCH CONFERENCE.

DEAR AND HONORED FATHERS AND BRETHREN: Your brethren, "the pastors and ministers of the Methodist section of the Church of Christ in France and Switzerland," gladly embrace the opportunity of your meeting in General Conference, to convey to you their cordial greetings, and to confer with you officially, on matters pertaining to the work of God among them. We are united to you, not only by the ties of a common faith, and of similar religious institutions, but likewise by the co-operation which you have, by means of your Missionary Board, so generously afforded us in the prosecution of our evangelical labors. May you be rewarded from on high, dear brethren, for "the riches of your liberality." To these you have doubtless added your sympathies and prayers, and have thus given to your pecuniary assistance an additional value and efficacy.

Addressing you for the first time, we deem it right to enter into some details respecting our labors, our difficulties, and our prospects.

It is now full half a century since Methodism unfurled, for the first time in France, the banner of the "glorious Gospel of the blessed God." The beginnings were small indeed, but remarkably well timed and providential. In the year 1791, a pious tradesman, member of the Methodist Society in one of the Channel Islands, came on business to a village on the coast of Normandy. There was in that neighborhood a small community of Protestants, almost entirely deprived, through the awful state of public affairs in France, of the services of a minister, and of the public means of grace.

Nevertheless, they usually met among themselves on the Sabbath day, and our friend gladly embraced the opportunity of joining with them in their social worship. In the afternoon meeting he was requested, in the absence of the usual reader, to conduct the service, which he did in the fervent spirit of true Methodism, by simply relating his conversion to God, exhorting the people to accept salvation, and praying with them.

From that period, at the earnest request of the little flock, preachers from the Island of Guernsey visited them at stated intervals, until one of their number became, at length, a resident missionary.

But it was soon found impracticable to carry on the work. Through one of those mysterious dispensations, with which we have almost become familiarized in France, and which seem, for a time, to blast every hope of success, our preachers were obliged to retire. During the prolonged wars of the republic and the empire, all attempts to spread the truth proved ineffectual. Nor was it till twenty-five years afterward, in 1816, on the arrival of the Rev. Charles Cook in France, that the mission was finally reestablished. This became, in reality, its starting point.

The work soon began to take root, and to spread. Doors of usefulness were successively opened to us, both in the north and south of France, as well as in Switzerland, and on the frontiers of Italy.

In the South our missionaries have been received among the Protestant or Huguenot populations in the vineyards of Languedoc, and the mountains of Dauphiny. Stations have been established in the Cevennes, in whose rugged hills the martyred Protestants once found a refuge and a stronghold. We have likewise penetrated into those distant and almost inaccessible valleys of the French Alps, where dwell the remains of the old Waldensian Churches; and we have visited their more favored brethren, the Vaudois, in the fertile valleys of Piedmont, on the southern declivity of the Alpine range. At a later period, labors have been undertaken in the Island of Corsica, and on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

In the North we have been enabled to form stations among the Roman Catholic populations in some important centers. Doors of usefulness have thus been opened to us in the provinces of Champagne, of Normandy, Flanders, and Auvergne, and more especially in the capital of the French empire, in Paris.

The present statistics of our work are as follows: There are under the direction of the French Conference one hundred and forty preaching places, twenty-two ordained ministers and probationers, nine evangelists, forty-five local preachers, one thousand one hundred and seventy-eight members meeting in class, and seventy-three on trial; thirty-three Sabbath-schools, in which are one hundred and ninety-eight teachers, and one thousand six hundred and six scholars; two training schools for day-school teachers, containing about fifty scholars.

The result indicated by these figures may be, perhaps, considered by some of our friends as a very small return for so many years' labor and outlay. But this impression will vanish when they become better acquainted with our situation, and shall have examined more fully the difficulties with which we have to cope. Of these a very brief enumeration will suffice.

Some of the hinderances to our outward progress arise from the evangelical strictness of our teachings and Discipline. The due observance of the Lord's day, stated attendance on class-meetings, and regular subscriptions in favor of the work of God, are some of the duties cheerfully complied with by the members of our societies. But they prove to be obstacles to many persons in a country where the Sabbath is generally reserved for easy labor or for pleasure, where religious habits are neither readily formed, nor easily retained, where the true spirit of sacrifice is a rarity, and the united influences of popery and infidelity have cast, as it were, a spell over the conscience and religious habits of the people. Many, therefore, either stand altogether aloof from such Christian fellowship as enforces duty, or else choose the easier path, and unite themselves to those denominations who are less stringent than ours in their conditions of membership.

Again, our work in France has had to go through a preparatory process. Being of foreign origin, it has had to be first implanted, and then naturalized on the continent. We have had to impress on our friends the value of our institutions, to train native agents for their special callings, to prepare our own religious literature, and to provide places of worship, by the erection of which our cause might more easily acquire the confidence of the public as to its stability and permanence.

We are far from having attained these various objects. There are legal difficulties in the way of our building chapels; few young men in our societies are at all sufficiently educated to become preachers among us, while various obstacles have prevented the publication of suitable Methodist books in the French language.

To these various difficulties may be added another, which is not, in fact, the least. We allude to the absence of that full amount of religious liberty which would afford us access to the masses of our population. Our labors are, therefore, of necessity, circumscribed within the limits of comparatively small congregations, for every one of which a special authorization is invariably required, sometimes refused, and easily withdrawn.

These various facts will doubtless explain our numerical weakness, will help you to understand more fully our situation, and to sustain us in our struggles.

But the success of Methodism in France has not been entirely, nor, indeed, chiefly confined to the thousand members who statedly attend our class-meetings. Having been unable (from the various causes which we have enumerated) to reap the full fruit of our toils, the work in France, as a distinct ecclesiastical organization, reveals but a small proportion of our full success.

This success has been considerable: it can be said without exaggeration, that the revival of the present day, in France, is chiefly due to Methodism. Its principles and labors have been the means of inspiring new life into a slumbering Protestantism. It has furnished it with some of its best pastors, of its most devoted and successful evangelists. It has contributed to the formation of new centers in the midst of Roman Catholic populations, and to the establishment of the Bible, Tract, and Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, which now flourish in this empire. And last, but not least, it has been instrumental in the conversion of thousands of immortal beings. In all these respects Methodism has been a blessing to France, so that its withdrawal, or the weakening of its influence, would undoubtedly, even as to mere general results, be one of the greatest calamities which could befall evangelical religion in this country.

We are, nevertheless, convinced that our task is not accomplished; that, in reality, it has only just commenced. Methodism will assuredly strike deeper root, and extend a still wider influence throughout France, Switzerland, and Italy. To this great and holy work our Master has evidently called us, by furnishing us with the means of its accomplishment. We hold those evangelical doctrines which portray a full, free, and present salvation for every individual of the human race; we are inspired with that missionary spirit which is so well suited to the spread of the truth, and to the conversion of sinners; our Church organization is amply sufficient to meet the wants of our converts; and we have friends who, even from beyond the seas, sustain and encourage us in our labors. But more especially we may and do look up to the "hills from whence cometh our help." The God in whom we trust can, in a moment remove, the obstacles which appear insurmountable, and make our way plain. He can, and will, send down the



“healthful spirit of his grace,” and cause us to triumph, even over the greatest difficulties.

Until the year 1852 the work in France was carried on at the expense of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and under the direction of the British Conference. At that period it was newly organized. The missionary district of France, of Switzerland, was, therefore, erected into a district conference, having the entire control and management of its own affairs; but being still affiliated to the older conference. We continue to depend principally on the annual grant of our benefactors in England for the sustentation of our older stations, while the help afforded by our American friends is chiefly devoted to the extension of the work.

We feel assured, dear and honored brethren, that the grant apportioned to our Conference by your Missionary Board, will not fail us. Indeed, it has now become indispensable; some of our most important stations, those especially on the Italian frontiers, depending entirely on your allowance.

We likewise lack two important institutions: a Theological School for the training of our native ministry, and a Book Society, for publishing in French and Italian a religious literature, purely Methodistical. Our cause on the continent will not be placed on a firm basis until these two indispensable auxiliaries to our work shall have been established among us.

We had entertained the hope that this address would have been handed you by the President of our Conference, the venerated Dr. Cook, who had been appointed at our late session, held in Paris last September, as our representative to your venerable assembly. The duties of his ministry among us deprive him, however, of the pleasure of meeting you in person. Accept, therefore, honored fathers and brethren, in their present imperfect form, the cordial greetings of your brethren in France, Switzerland, and Italy. They have heard tell of the glorious progress of that great work, which is confided to your pastoral oversight, and it creates in them a just cause of glorying in the Lord, and of devout thankfulness to his holy name. Accept, likewise, our most earnest wishes, and most fervent prayers, that the blessing of God may abundantly rest on your persons, your families, your Churches, and your country, as well as on the momentous proceedings of your present important session.

Should you, at any time, think it proper to appoint a representative to our Conference, be assured that it will be considered as an honor conferred on us; and that a most cordial reception would await him on the French territory.

We have been exceedingly happy to see at our late Conference the Rev. Abel Stevens, of New-York. We were greatly pleased and profited by our intercourse with him, and it has increased our desire that this first interview with brethren from beyond the Atlantic may not be the last.

Meanwhile, we feel assured that neither the ocean that rolls between, nor the difference of language or of country, can separate those whom Christ unites in one. Strong in this sacred unity, and in entire obe-

dience to our adorable Head, may we, each and all of us, labor undaunted and untired, even unto the end.

For, and in behalf of, the French Conference.

HENRY DE JERSEY, *Secretary.*

MATTHEW GALLIENNE, LUKE PULSFORD, *Sub-secretaries.*

NISMES, SOUTH OF FRANCE, *April 5, 1856.*

## I.

### REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE FRENCH CONFERENCE.

*To the Pastors and Ministers of the Methodist Section of the Church of Christ in France and Switzerland :*

DEAR AND HONORED BRETHREN: Your brethren, the bishops and ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, represented in their General Conference, in Indianapolis, embrace the opportunity afforded them, in acknowledging your excellent Address, conveying to them your cordial greetings, to express to you their warmest Christian salutations. This is especially agreeable to them at the present time, as they ardently hope and trust the formal interchange of brotherly feelings and sympathies, now introduced between the Methodist Section of the Church of Christ in France and Switzerland, and the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, will be repeated and continued in all coming time.

We have read with much interest the History of the Introduction of Methodism into France, and its subsequent progress; and we cherish the hope that the work, so providentially begun and so faithfully fostered, will increase in extent and power.

You speak, dearly beloved brethren, of your work thus far as "preparatory," and beset with numerous difficulties. So we understand it. But as light increases, and the principles on which a just and permanent government is based are better understood, your circumstances in this particular will change. The obstacles to your success will, one after another, be removed, as the fears of those in authority subside, and they begin to see that what the masses most need to make them loyal, industrious, and virtuous, is the Gospel of the Son of God in its purity and simplicity.

Free as we are, in this country, to meet together when and where we choose to worship God, to preach the Gospel, to organize Sabbath schools, to disseminate tracts, periodicals, and books, and to establish Churches, we sympathize with you in the disabilities under which you are placed by your government; and while, as faithful Christian subjects, you "submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake," you may, nevertheless, pray—and we join you in the prayer—that God will dispose those who are in authority, as they witness your exemplary lives and pious zeal, to throw around you that protection

which will enable you to prosecute, without molestation or fear, your godly work.

We rejoice to recognize you as brethren beloved, one with us in the doctrines of our holy religion, and in all that is essential to constitute you a branch of the great Methodist family. And, so long as you "walk by the same rule, and mind the same thing," we shall continue to cherish a lively regard for whatever pertains to your welfare on earth and your final salvation in heaven. With these views and feelings, thus freely expressed, we rejoice also in the measure of success you have had in the work of your Divine Lord and Master. And we desire and pray that your godly zeal may be crowned with still more abundant success.

During the last four years the Great Head of the Church has granted us much prosperity in both the home and foreign work. We have now five thousand four hundred and eight (5,408) traveling preachers, six thousand six hundred and ten (6,610) local preachers, and seven hundred and ninety-nine thousand four hundred and thirty-one (799,431) members and probationers. Our net increase, for the last four years, is nine hundred and fifty-eight (958) traveling preachers, nine hundred and ten (910) local preachers, and seventy-seven thousand six hundred and twenty-seven (77,627) members and probationers. In view of the greatness of the work accomplished, and the weakness of the human instrumentality employed, we are constrained to say, God *hath wrought it*.

We are pleased to learn that the aid which our Missionary Society affords you has enabled you to extend your missionary work; and we have confidence that our Board will continue to assist you as long as they have ability to do so, and are assured of the faithful and useful appropriations of the funds they place at your disposal.

We regret that circumstances, requiring his presence at home, have deprived us of the pleasure of receiving, in person, your honored president, the Rev. Dr. Cook. We hope he may be long spared to labor for the promotion of Methodism in France.

And now, dear and honored brethren, we commend you and the beloved members of your Church in France and Switzerland, "to God and the word of his grace." Devoutly do we thank Him for his good hand upon you thus far, and earnestly do we pray that all grace and mercy may abound unto you. Let us hear from you again by address, and also by a messenger, if it is your pleasure to send one to us; and be assured that he will meet with a cordial reception; and we shall be happy to reciprocate your Christian courtesy and fraternal Christian greetings.

J.

ADDRESS FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

*To the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Northern States of America :*

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, BLOOMFIELD-STREET, FINSEBURY, }  
LONDON, *January 29, 1856.* }

DEAR AND HONORED BRETHREN : We are encouraged to address you in our corporate capacity as the Committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, on a subject of great interest and importance to the Churches we represent, by a remembrance of the fact that one of the objects contemplated in the formation of our Union was to establish fraternal correspondence with Congregational Churches and other bodies of Christians throughout the world ; and that, in pursuance of this design, the Assembly of the Union and its executive have on several occasions addressed letters to the Congregational and other Churches of the United States of America, and on one occasion sent two of their brethren as delegates to visit you, while they have in return cheerfully received representatives from your various ecclesiastical bodies, and have been favored with fraternal epistles of great value from many of your annual gatherings. We believe that in various ways the interchange of sentiment and Christian feeling thus effected has been of great value, and we shall be happy, as occasion arises, from time to time, to aid in the maintenance of such correspondence.

It has been with great concern that we, in common with an overwhelming majority of our fellow-countrymen, have witnessed the springing up of anything approaching to a misunderstanding between the government of Great Britain and that of the United States of America, and have been compelled to listen to rumors of possible contentions between the two nations. We are devoutly thankful to the God of peace that there is now reason to believe that the apprehensions, whether well or ill founded, which were thus entertained, will not be realized, and that, on the contrary, there is ample encouraging ground of hope for concluding that the amicable relations which have been so long maintained between the two countries will continue undisturbed. Still we think that the present occasion, while calling us to congratulation and praise, is one which should urge us to do all that we can to promote and perpetuate the concord now happily existing.

Without propounding any theory on the unlawfulness of war in the abstract, we hold that its inevitable disadvantages to nations are so great, and its calamities to individuals so awful, that Christian men and Christian Churches are most legitimately employing their influences when they exert it in favor of peace. Recognizing the unity of the human race, and the consequent brotherhood of mankind, descended from the one great Parent, and redeemed by the one only Saviour, we would earnestly deprecate an appeal to arms in every case in which it can be avoided, and would seek by all honorable and Christian means to main-



tain the peace of the whole world ; but we feel that, in addition to these general considerations, there are special motives which urge us to cultivate strong and peculiar affection to the people of your land. For the most part they speak our language, and retain a love for many of our social habits. You, beloved brethren, have sprung with us from a common ancestry. Your fathers left our shores from necessity, in search of liberty to worship the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and having happily secured that boon for themselves, bequeathed the legacy of religious freedom to you and your children. You have many of our best civil institutions incorporated with yours ; you possess a literature of varied and growing worth, which we appreciate and enjoy ; you hold with us the great principles of Protestant evangelical truth, and you are strenuously laboring, as we are, to spread the Gospel in heathen and other lands. The alienation of two such countries, even for a time, would be an incalculable calamity. Their hostility would be a spectacle over which angels might weep, and demons triumph. The memory of the Pilgrim Fathers, the bond of a no very remote common origin ; the ties of a common Christianity, and the love of an adorable Saviour, all give weight to the apostolic injunction to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.

Without unsuitably interfering in political affairs, we believe that Christian Churches, in their separate and associate capacity, can most effectually influence and mold public opinion on moral and social questions such as the one we now venture to present to your attention. Cheerfully undertaking for ourselves to exert our utmost ability to perpetuate kind and brotherly feelings between the people of our country and of America, we feel assured that you, sympathizing with our views and emotions, will earnestly aid our endeavors to promote this momentous object. The mere mention of the subject will awaken in all Christian hearts a conviction of its importance. In the social circles of life, in your sanctuaries of worship, through your periodical literature, and through other approved channels, you will employ your holy influence for the maintenance of peace. In all such efforts we will join you, and at the throne of our heavenly Father we will mutually supplicate his blessing on the peace makers, and on the things which make for peace, and pray for the time when war shall be no more.

Thankfully recognising the large amount of good which God has made you the honored means of effecting in the world by the agency of your voluntary Christian endeavors, and praying that all peace and prosperity may increasingly abound in your Churches, we have respectfully to request that you may adopt such means as to you may appear desirable for bringing this letter under the notice of the denomination or Churches with which you are connected, and remain, dear and honored brethren, on behalf of the Committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, yours faithfully,

ROBERT HALLY, *Chairman.*

BENJAMIN HANBURY, *Treasurer.*

GEORGE SMITH, }  
ROBERT ASHTON, } *Secretaries.*

## K.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES.

DEAR BRETHREN: Your communication, bearing date January 29, 1856, was duly received by our General Conference, which convened in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 1st, 1856.

Responding, as we do, with great cordiality, to the excellent sentiments of your address, we assure you that we were much encouraged by your fraternal letter, to hope that the day was rapidly approaching when the honest differences which may exist among Christians will not prevent the fellowship of those who hold the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." If the disciples were "glad when they saw the Lord," then, surely, all Christians may rejoice when they see such exemplifications of his spirit as your letter affords.

Various considerations render your communication grateful to our feelings. Representing a people who have no denominational ties uniting them to our own communion, you have crossed over the ordinary line of separation, and, constrained by the love of Christ, have tendered us your warmest Christian salutations, thus giving us a lovely illustration of the sacred truth, that "he who loveth God, loveth his brother also." This is the union for which the Saviour prayed, and for the consummation of which all Christians should most fervently pray. Your message of Christian affection is no less interesting when we remember that the particular sphere of your ecclesiastical operations is remote from our own. A mighty ocean rolls between us, yet your Christian sympathy, which many waters cannot quench, reaches to these lands, and in spirit we are permitted to hail you as "brethren beloved." It is the diffusion of this spirit, which is ultimately to draw all men unto him, by whom the whole "family of God is named."

The countries which you represent, England and Wales, are endeared to all Protestants, by the recollection of their struggles in the maintenance of the great principles of the Reformation. In support of these principles, and in efforts to promote the evangelization of the world, we feel that one object is before us, and trust that one destiny awaits us.

You have alluded, with deep emotion, to the indications which existed some time since, of an interruption of the peaceful relations which have heretofore held in friendly intercourse the governments of our respective countries. Similar solicitude has pervaded our own country. No less than yourselves should we deprecate any unsettling of that peace which is so closely blended with the happiness of our respective nations.

Though there are some causes still existing to excite, in some slight degree, these disconcerting apprehensions, let us not doubt that they will be so adjusted as to render more firm our mutual regard as Christian nations. To effect this, let all Christians unite in the work of "the peace maker," and the prayer of love.

At the date of your letter, the war in which your country was involved,

had not entirely ceased. To the political aspects of that war it would not be proper for us to refer, nor have we any desire so to do ; yet we cannot refrain from congratulating you that your warfare is over, and that your land once more reposes under the reign of the " Prince of Peace." Long may that repose remain unbroken, and may your prayers blend with ours, that our endeared countries may more and more exemplify the beauties of that charity which seeks to give the world an open Bible, and to bring all into the brotherhood of Christ.

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## L.

### REPORT OF THE BOOK AGENTS AT NEW-YORK TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 1856.

*To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference :*

DEAR BRETHREN : In obedience to the requirements of the Discipline of the Church, we beg leave respectfully to present our quadrennial report of the condition of the Book Concern.

In submitting this report, we not only feel called upon to recognize our obligations, but to express our grateful thanks to God, the Father of all mercies, for his kind providence toward us during the period which has elapsed since the last session of the General Conference. Death has but once invaded this department of the Church during our agency. Our entire Zion has, with us, recently been called to mourn the loss of the venerable Dr. THOMAS E. BOND, Editor of the *Christian Advocate and Journal*. Though he had so nearly completed the work assigned him, as an officer of the General Conference, and it would seem as though his long and useful life had been providentially spared ; yet, ere the last month of the term for which he was elected had come, full of years and ripe for heaven, he was summoned away from the toils he loved and the conflicts he shunned not, as a defender of the Church, to the rest and enjoyment of the general assembly and Church of the first-born in heaven. " Though dead, he yet speaketh ;" and his works and words will live, as the rich and enduring inheritance of our Zion, in all coming time. More than this, in regard to the death of our venerable brother, we need not say ; less than this, as a just tribute to departed worth and greatness, we could not say.

#### CHURCH SUIT.

Your Agents have the pleasure to report the long and vexed question in dispute between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, about the division of the property of the Book Concern, amicably settled ; and from your commissioners you will doubtless, in due time, receive a full report.

## CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

At the last session of the General Conference, it was

*"Resolved,* That a weekly paper, to be denominated the California Christian Advocate, be established in San Francisco, under the patronage and control of the General Conference; and that the Conference accept the paper of that name now published in San Francisco as the nucleus of the enterprise."

Subsequently to this action the following resolution was passed:

*"Resolved,* That there shall be a Publishing Committee, consisting of five members to be selected by the California Annual Conference and one from the Oregon Annual Conference, whose duties shall be similar to those of the Book Committees at New-York and Cincinnati, so far as they may be applicable to the establishment."

Soon after the adjournment of the General Conference, and before any publishing committee had been appointed, and even prior to the organization of the conferences contemplated in the action, whose province it was to accept the terms of the transfer of the paper, a draft for \$2,591 06 was made upon your Agents by D. L. Ross, chairman of the publishing association. This being a much larger amount than had been represented as the indebtedness of the paper, and being drawn at the time and under the circumstances it was, your Agents were induced to examine into the action of the General Conference in relation to the subject. In that action it will be seen that there is not so much as an allusion to the aforesaid parties. Under the circumstances, the whole subject was laid before your attorney in the suit then pending between the Book Concern and the commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The attorney, after a careful examination of the whole matter, gave it as his opinion, that the General Conference had failed to give your Agents any authority to pay the debts of the California Christian Advocate, or to make any appropriation of funds to aid in its publication. And he further gave it as his judgment, that they would not only make themselves personally responsible, if they honored the above draft, but the Court would be very likely to grant an injunction, which had already been applied for by the prosecuting attorney, and thus very much embarrass your Agents, if not suspend, for a time, the operations of the Concern. In accordance with this advice, the draft was returned unpaid and protested.

On the 20th of October, 1852, Rev. Messrs. Isaac Owen and John D. Blain drew on the Rev. T. Carlton, Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, for the sum of \$3,000, adding, in their accompanying letter, that if the draft was honored they could go on with the paper. After mutual consultation with the officers of the Board, it was finally agreed to pay the amount, provided the bishop having charge of the California work, would make a draft to that effect. This was done, and the money was paid.

On the 14th of February, 1853, your Agents received another draft, drawn by the agent of the California Christian Advocate, for the sum of \$2,005, which was represented by the committee appointed by the California Conference to be the whole of its indebtedness at that time;



the committee consisted of the Rev. Messrs. Taylor, Owen, Blain, and Stratton. Your Agents were at a loss to know what to do with this draft. The suit with the South had not yet been settled; and they had been forced, by circumstances over which they had no control, to borrow large sums of money to enable them to carry on the business of the Concern, and to meet the liabilities which were falling due. In addition to all this, the General Conference had given them no authority to make such payments. Nevertheless, being desirous to aid the California brethren in their embarrassment, and place them in a position in which they might go on with the California paper, without making any further demands on the Book Concern; and believing that the absence of a grant of authority on the part of the General Conference was an omission not designed, your Agents ventured, on their own responsibility, to pay the said draft of \$2,005; and not until the final settlement with the Church, South, was it charged to the Concern.

In the communication forwarded with the above draft, the Rev. W. Taylor says: "We think the paper this year will be self-supporting; and if not, it will be the duty of our conference, at its next session, to wind it up, as per Discipline."

Thus things continued until February the 8th, 1854, when the Publishing Committee reported the paper failing to meet its expenses by \$4,116; and a draft was made on your Agents for the amount. The same committee stated, that they would be unable to proceed with the publication of the paper without an additional advance from your Agents of the sum of \$5,884, making a total of \$10,000.

Your Book Committee was called together; and all the documents pertaining to the subject were placed in their hands for examination and deliberation. As the result of their careful and mature deliberation, we present the following, as the resolutions passed by that body:

"1. The repeated assurances which have been given to the Agents, that, on conditions which they have met with all reasonable promptness, the paper would be able to support itself, and upon failing to do so it would be discontinued; and from the latest reports of the Publishing Committee, the support of the paper, from its own income, appears to be more doubtful than ever, the committee believe it wholly inexpedient to continue its publication as a General Conference paper.

"2. The Agents are, therefore, advised not to advance the \$10,000 desired by the Publishing Committee."

Acting in accordance with the above advice, we furnished the Committee of Publication of the California Christian Advocate a copy of the same; and stated in our accompanying communication that the Agents held themselves responsible for the present liabilities, and when the accounts were properly adjusted, as provided for in the Discipline, they would be paid.

The paper, by resolution of the California Conference, was discontinued; and your Agents paid off all its debts, amounting to \$4,116, for which they took a receipt from the agent, showing payment in full for all demands growing out of the publication of the California Christian Advocate. The whole amount paid by the Concern, and the Missionary Society, for the publication of said paper, was \$9,121.

## BOOK DEPOSITORY IN CALIFORNIA.

Your Agents were instructed, by the action of the last General Conference, to establish a Depository in San Francisco, California. Accordingly, with all "reasonable promptitude and dispatch," which the importance of the enterprise demanded, they proceeded to take the necessary preliminary steps for carrying out its instructions. Inquiries were immediately instituted as to the price of rents, clerk hire, &c. ; and also as to the cost of ground and price of building, as well as the probable amount of books that could be sold. This information was sought from the most reliable sources ; and, after thorough investigation of all the facts in the case—both in reference to the enterprise in California and the financial condition of the Concern—we were brought to a deliberate conviction that the instructions of the General Conference could not be carried out without a great loss to the Concern. This conclusion was not, however, arrived at without a consultation with our constitutional advisers, who, after being put in possession of all the facts in the case, gave it as their deliberate judgment that the General Conference would, under the circumstances, exonerate its Agents from any blame for not establishing a Depository in San Francisco.

The Book Committee, however, advised that arrangements be made, if practicable, by which a supply of our books should be kept on sale in that city. Accordingly, as soon as it could be effected, we made a contract with a firm engaged in the book business ; and, through that house, a good supply of our publications are kept on sale, and at as good rates as they could be sold by a Depository, unless it should be at a sacrifice to the Concern.

We have thus presented a simple statement of the facts in relation to the California Christian Advocate, and Depository ; and respectfully submit them to your judgment.

## CHANGES IN REAL ESTATE.

At the last session of the General Conference, your Agents were instructed to dispose of the real estate belonging to the Concern, situated in Crosby-street, whenever a favorable opportunity for effecting its sale should present itself. The property consisted of four houses on leased lots. Such was the unfavorableness of the location, and the condition of the property, that, though the Book Agents had been instructed at a previous Conference to dispose of said property, a sale could not be effected, and the consequence was that it had been in the market for several years. The object in securing a sale was for the purpose of erecting more suitable houses in a better locality. At length, on the 1st of February, 1853, an offer was made, which was accepted, after due deliberation and consultation with the Book Committee ; and the contract was closed for the sum of \$12,000.

At the time of the sale it was thought advisable to erect houses on vacant ground belonging to the Concern, in Mulberry-street ; but so rapidly and extensively was the business increasing, and so much were your Agents pressed for want of room in the establishment, to enable them to carry on the business successfully, that the idea was aban-

doned, and the grounds reserved for the future enlargement of the Concern, which must be attended to at no very distant day.

Instead of building, as was contemplated at first, it was ascertained, after careful examination, that it would be much cheaper and better to purchase property already improved. Accordingly, a house and lot was purchased on Sixth-street, for the sum of \$9,000, and another on Seventh-street, for the sum of \$9,500. This property is quite accessible to the Book Concern, and is situated in a desirable part of the city. Its value is increasing every year, and could now be sold at a considerable advance on the original cost.

In connection with this, your Agents have been under the necessity of expending several thousand dollars in repairs of the buildings of the Book Concern; repairs demanded, not only for preservation, but to facilitate the business in the various departments.

#### NEW MACHINERY.

The increase of business has been such as to render it necessary for your Agents to purchase a large amount of machinery, all of which has been of the latest and most improved kind.

To the printing department have been added five Adams & Co.'s best power presses, at a cost of \$7,798 69. There has also been purchased one of Hoe & Co.'s hydraulic presses, of six hundred tons pressure, the price of which was \$1,517 45.

For the bindery there have been procured one cutting machine, at a cost of \$400; three backing machines, at a cost of \$350; three standing presses, at a cost of \$400; four embossing presses, at a cost of \$1,600; and embossing stamps, rolls, dies, &c., costing \$2,000.

Within the past year electrotyping has been introduced into the Concern, by which plates and cuts are cast with copper face, adding very much to their durability, as well as to the convenience of multiplying engravings, and the perfection of printing; and the short experience your Agents have had, has convinced them that this is far preferable, for many kinds of work, to the old mode of stereotyping. This improvement has been made at a cost of only about \$400. Total for new machinery, \$14,466 14.

#### PERIODICAL DEPARTMENT.

Your Agents deeply regret that they are under the necessity of reporting a loss upon all the periodicals published by the Concern, except the *Christian Advocate and Journal*.

The following shows the cost and receipts of each for the last four years, together with the average number of subscribers:

##### *Christian Advocate and Journal.*

Average number of subscribers.....	29,875
Cost of publication.....	\$124,749 22
Receipts.....	141,731 67
Profits....	\$16,982 45

*Sunday School Advocate.*

Average circulation.....	83,500		
Expenses.....		\$95,831	85
Receipts .....		81,497	27
Loss .....			<u>\$14,334 58</u>

*National Magazine.*

Average circulation.....	15,875		
Expenses.....		\$92,265	61
Receipts .....		69,347	93
Loss .....			<u>\$22,917 68</u>

*Quarterly Review.*

Average circulation.....	2,721		
Expenses.....		\$17,236	08
Receipts .....		10,975	94
Loss .....			<u>\$6,260 14</u>

Expenses over receipts on National Magazine, Quarterly Review, and Sunday School Advocate .....	\$43,512	40
Deduct the profits on the Advocate and Journal .....	16,982	45
Balance of expenses over receipts on all the periodicals .....	\$26,529	95

In the above estimates of cost, the composition, stereotyping, press-work, &c., are calculated at the usual master's prices; prices which we should have to pay if the work was done out of the house.

It is but just to ourselves, and to others specially interested, to say that no small part of the loss indicated in the balances of the Sunday-School Advocate and the National Magazine, is chargeable to a great advance in the price of paper. While this advance in the cost of material, and a corresponding increase in the wages of workmen, were wholly unlooked for at the time when the terms of those periodicals were fixed, yet they occurred soon after, and have continued during the intervening period. As these high prices of material and labor still prevail without prospect of diminution, the question arises, in the judgment of your Agents, as to the expedience of continuing, at least in their present form and at present rates, those periodicals upon which there is so great a loss to the Concern.

In considering this question, we would suggest,

1. The advantages to the Book Department in advertising through these mediums, which otherwise would cost the Concern a very large amount, while all departments of the Church would not be reached as at present.

2. The influence of such periodicals upon the Church and the world, devoted as they are to morality and religion.

3. We would further suggest whether there could not be some change in the form and size of the National Magazine and Quarterly Review, so as to lessen the expense, and at the same time meet the wants of the Church; and also whether, in view of all things, it may not be best to reduce both the size and the price of the Sunday School Advocate, so that it may become more strictly a children's paper.



There is reason to hope that on this plan its circulation might be very greatly increased.

Even in their present form and at their present rates, the whole difficulty would be relieved, if the General Conference could devise some means by which to increase their circulation. If the National Magazine had twenty-five thousand paying subscribers, the Quarterly Review four thousand, and the Sunday School Advocate one hundred thousand, the Periodical Department would not only support itself, but yield a small profit to the Concern.

#### BOOK DEPARTMENT.

Your Agents take pleasure in reporting that, in regard to the Book Department of the Concern, the last four years have been years of prosperity. It was stated by our worthy predecessors in their last report to the General Conference, that in the year 1850 the sales amounted to \$202,358 27, being the largest business ever done by the Concern in one year. This large amount of sales they attributed, however, to the issue of our new Hymn Book. At the same time, they gave it as their opinion, that the business of the Concern should be increased to \$250,000 per year, or \$1,000,000 every four years. It affords your Agents no little pleasure to state that the opinions of our excellent predecessors have been confirmed, and that the point has not only been gained, but an advance has been made upon it. The following are the annual receipts: 1852, \$182,757 80; 1853, \$256,911 78; 1854, \$300,655 44; 1855, \$260,409 16; making a total of \$1,000,734 18, being an increase over the preceding four years of over 53 per cent., or \$347,543 40. This large increase in the sales may be in part attributed to the improved quality and style of the books. The paper used has been of the first quality, while the typographical execution, together with the binding, has been equal to that of any publishing house in the country. Your Agents flatter themselves that they have met the wants and tastes of the religious community and the reading public in the works issued from your Concern. Your Agents have published 45 new books for general sales, 185 Sunday-school books, and 17 Tract books, making in all, for the four years, 247. Besides, there have been added to the Tract Catalogue 198 New Tracts.

Your Agents would further state, that they have issued, in muslin and leather binding, 4,378,376 volumes, and in paper covers, 2,079,733; making the whole number of volumes for the four years, 6,458,109. There have also been issued, 8,297,517 Miscellaneous books, Sermons, Pamphlets, Children's small books, &c.; these, added to the above, make 14,755,626, which would be an average per day of 12,296 volumes, allowing three hundred working days per year. Besides this, there has been an average issue of 9,974 Tracts per day, of from 4 to 48 pages each, making, during the four years, 11,968,800.

Your Agents think, if the proper means are used for the coming four years, the sales may be greatly increased, and that the day is not far distant when the business of the Concern may be double what it now is.

One thing ought specially to be borne in mind, namely, that great advantages are secured by a unity of interest and action. It is this which has given to the Book Concern of our Church its great efficiency hitherto.

In some other denominations the habit has obtained of having one publishing-house for general or doctrinal books, another for tract publications, and a third for Sunday-school publications, while their periodicals are published and controlled by private individuals. This multiplication of establishments makes necessary the employment of many more men and larger amounts of capital than are called for on our plan, while the different interests are thus made to conflict with each other. In every way our plan is more advantageous, and hence it becomes the General Conference carefully to classify and arrange the several departments so as to harmonize with and aid each other.

#### CIRCULATION OF BOOKS.

Since the last session of the General Conference much has been said and written, and many plans have been proposed, with a view of getting our publications more extensively in the market. To a consideration of some of these we invite your attention: It is proposed that the Agents adopt a system of advertising in the secular papers. This plan was recommended by your Book Committee, and was, accordingly, to some extent adopted; but, after having expended hundreds of dollars in this way, we became satisfied that it was a losing operation. We were careful to watch the results; and though we received orders, again and again, for books outside of our ordinary agencies, from persons who saw our advertisements in the Church papers, yet we have not, to our knowledge, received one from any person who obtained information of our publications through the secular press.

The importance of establishing Depositories in our larger towns and cities has been urged. To the consideration of this plan we have also directed our attention. Though we could not establish such Depositories, yet we have made arrangements, in several cities and towns, by which an assortment of our books has been kept on sale at wholesale prices. The result, however, of this arrangement has thoroughly convinced your Agents that, in many places where both preachers and people have asked for Depositories, there could not be a sufficient amount of books sold to pay the expenses connected therewith, while the idea of profit is entirely out of the question. Others have proposed a general system of colportage. The adoption of such a system, all must be aware, would be attended with many difficulties, and involve an amount of hazard which would require the most mature deliberation before entering upon it. The experience of the last four years has demonstrated most clearly to our minds the inutility of this plan. It is perfectly obvious that, if we were to adopt this scheme for the circulation of our literature, it would be impossible to carry it out successfully, from the fact that the right kind of men could not be obtained to act as colporteurs. No man of much reliability or business tact could be found to engage in such a work at the compensation afforded, such

being occupied in other and more profitable employments. Colporteurs, engaged in the work of Tract distribution by the Tract Society, have, no doubt, accomplished much good by the circulation of religious literature among the masses, and by their personal religious efforts; but if the Concern were left to depend upon these agencies, it would soon have to stop its presses, at least so far as its general business is concerned.

Another class of our friends suggest the propriety of leaving the whole matter of the sale of our books to the trade. They would have us place our books in the trade sales, and let them be sold, as those of other publishing houses, under the hammer, to the highest bidder.

We have not been unmindful of the interests connected with the book trade in general, and have, as judiciously as possible, effected many sales through the trade; but if this were the only agency upon which we had to rely, our business, instead of being increased, would be greatly diminished.

Finally, on this subject: Quite a large number are altogether favorable to the old plan of leaving the circulation of our books and periodicals with the preachers, who are constituted, by the Discipline of the Church, as the proper agents to supply our people with our book and periodical publications. Were this generally attended to, no plan could be devised that could approximate, in the remotest degree, its efficiency, as every city, town, village, and district of country would have an agency at once prompt and reliable; but, as it is, many places would be wholly unsupplied, if its dependence were to be placed alone upon the preachers.

We respectfully suggest, that, as all the plans proposed have more or less in them worthy of consideration, your Agents be left, in addition to the wise and wholesome regulations of the Discipline, to avail themselves of such parts of these plans as may be adapted to our economy, and will serve to facilitate our operations.

In regard to Depositories already established, we would say that they have proved themselves useful auxiliaries to the Parent Concern, though we are thoroughly convinced that it would be injudicious to multiply them, especially in those sections of the country where the facilities for transportation are such as to enable purchasers to procure their books from New-York, Cincinnati, and elsewhere, in a few days; and, besides, our arrangements with the trade are such, that our books can be had at almost all the larger places, at the regular catalogue prices. Though the trade has a larger discount, yet the market is thus kept supplied with our books; and the preachers can purchase our publications of those booksellers who keep them on sale, at our wholesale prices. Through this agency, many of our books get a wider circulation than they otherwise would. The colporteurs employed by the Tract Society have made sale of a large number of books and tract publications; and, we doubt not, this system is susceptible of such arrangements and regulations, that it may become quite effective, in the hands of skillful managers, in supplying the demand for our books in those sections of our work where the preachers are unwilling to carry out the provisions of the Discipline in supplying our people. The great

agency, after all, upon which the Concern must chiefly rely for accomplishing its mission, in the diffusion of a sound religion and a pure literature, is that which is to be found in the traveling preachers; and we shall regret exceedingly if that agency is withdrawn, or lessened to any extent.

The age is emphatically a reading age; and never, in the history of the country, did the presses in the great book mart teem with such an amount of light literature. That the minds of our widely-extended community may not be left unoccupied by the pure and the true; or, what is much worse, filled with the corrupt and fictitious, it becomes every minister of the Gospel to see that his flock are supplied with such books as "tend to the knowledge and love of God."

#### CAPITAL AND REVENUE.

On the first of January, 1852, the books of the Concern showed the Capital to be: Real Estate, \$130,568 63; Personal Property, \$511,978 37; total amount of Capital, \$642,547.

From this sum deduct the following appropriations made by the General Conference of 1852: Expenses of said Conference, \$3,364 59; Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, \$3,598 31; and dividends for 1852, \$11,457 50; making the sum of \$18,420 40. This deducted, leaves \$624,126 60. Add to this the profits of the year 1852, \$49,388 30, and you have, at the close of the year 1852, \$673,509 90.

In the settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1853, we agreed to pay the sum of \$191,000 in cash, and \$40,648 51 in notes and accounts, making \$231,648 51. Expenses in said suit, \$2,063. Total, \$233,711 51; leaving the nominal Capital, in 1853, \$439,798 39.

Profits for the last three years are as follows: 1853, \$54,354 83; 1854, \$54,844 75; 1855, \$32,679 99. Total, \$141,879 47. This shows a fraction less than 11 per cent. per annum on the whole capital, after the division of the property with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Your Agents feel impelled to say, that while the above shows the nominal Capital in 1852 and 1853, its real value was much less, there being, after the settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, not less than \$50,000 of notes and book accounts against persons from whom the first dollar could not be collected; and, besides this, there was a large amount of old, soiled, and unsalable books and sheet stock, which had been accumulating for many years. Of the sheet stock which was inventoried at cost, your Agents have sold over 47 tons, at an average price of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  cents per pound, or \$55 per ton. Here is a deduction to be made of at least \$15,000. The bound stock has been sold at a loss of about \$500. After deducting from the notes and book accounts the amount which was transferred to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the settlement, and the \$50,000 of bad debts, there remained, in notes and accounts, \$101,928 87, upon which your Agents judge there should be a deduction of at least 15 per cent., making \$15,289 38. These several sums, taken from the nominal amount of Capital



in 1853, left the real Capital, after the division of the property with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, \$359,009 01, allowing the real estate, presses, stereotype plates, &c., as then inventoried, which was evidently too high, and more than the property was worth. Instead, then, of reckoning the per centage as above, on the sum of \$439,798 39, it should be on \$359,009 01, which would show a profit on the Capital, for the last three years, of a fraction over 13 per cent. per annum.

This result, your Agents think, cannot but be satisfactory, considering the embarrassing circumstances under which they entered upon their duties; and though it has been said by some that it would be better to dispose of the property, and invest the proceeds in stocks that would be more productive, yet, as a mere financial operation, your Agents doubt if a better investment could be made in any stocks now in market, or if the money could be loaned, with any degree of safety, so as to yield to the Church an equal amount of profit.

But your Agents have not been accustomed to look upon the Methodist Book Concern merely as a money-making institution. This they have regarded as incidental, while the great object has been to furnish the Church and the world with a sound religious literature. And yet it may be doubted whether there is any book-making establishment in our country which has succeeded better financially. If the whole amount paid out at different times, per order of the General Conference, together with the dividends to the several Annual Conferences, had been invested in stocks, or loaned out on annual interest, we doubt if the Methodist Book Concern would not this day possess a larger capital than any other manufacturing establishment in this land. And though your Agents have not declared any dividends to the several Annual Conferences during their agency, yet they have met certain demands growing out of the action of the last General Conference, including the salaries and traveling expenses of the bishops, together with the dividend of 1850, amounting to the sum of \$71,100 15.

If this sum had been appropriated by way of dividends, it would have given to the conferences annually \$17,775 03.

But, notwithstanding this large appropriation, your Agents were very desirous to continue the long-established practice of declaring dividends to the several Annual Conferences; and it was not until they had made a full exhibit of the financial condition of the Concern to the Book Committee, and obtained their advice on the subject, that they abandoned the idea. Your Agents were members of the Book Committee the four years preceding the last General Conference, and knowing, as they did, the embarrassing condition of the Concern, growing out of the suit with the Church, South, they were then of the opinion that it was inexpedient to declare a dividend for 1852; but, under the circumstances which existed in 1853, it would have been ruinous to the best interests of the Concern. By borrowing money and by strict economy, your Agents have been able to meet all the liabilities of the Concern thus far as they became due, and they now have good hope that in a few years the Concern may be able to free itself from its indebtedness; and your Agents do most sincerely hope that this General Conference will not, further than is absolutely necessary for the interest of the Church, tax the

Book Concern for the coming four years, or, at least, until its liabilities are so far redeemed that they can be managed with safety, even if there should come a more stringent time for money than we have had for the last two years.

In closing this article on capital and revenue, we give the exhibit of January 1, 1856, which was made in accordance with the long-established usage of the House, to be presented to the several Annual Conferences; together with one so modified as to show a cash valuation of the property of the Concern.

ASSETS.		
<i>Real Estate.</i>	Exhibit, Jan. 1, 1856, to be presented to the Annual Conferences.	Comparative Exhibit, showing the cash valuation of the property.
House and lot in Sixth-street.....	\$9,000 00	\$9,000 00
Do. do. Seventh-street.....	9,500 00	9,500 00
Buildings and lots in Mulberry-street .....	120,112 84	100,000 00
<i>Cash.</i>		
Cash in Bank and in hand.....	23,851 10	23,851 10
New-York and Erie Railroad Bonds.....	4,000 00	4,000 00
<i>Periodicals.</i>		
Amount due on Periodical Accounts.....	10,000 00	
<i>Merchandise.</i>		
Sunday-school Books, Books of General Catalogue, Sheet-stock, &c.....	154,688 18	139,200 00
<i>Printing-Office.</i>		
Presses, Type, Stereotype Plates, Wood Cuts, Furniture, White Paper, &c. ....	116,836 08	105,153 00
<i>Bindery.</i>		
Presses, Tools, Sheet-stock, &c.....	106,573 56	95,916 00
<i>Notes and Book Accounts.</i>		
Notes and Book Accounts.....	\$230,519 49	138,311 70
Deduct bad debts, estimated.....	46,103 89	
	<hr/> 184,415 60	
Total.....	\$738,977 36	\$624,931 80
LIABILITIES.		
Book Accounts and Notes, including Bonds due M. E. Church, South.....	170,704 60	170,704 60
Capital Stock.....	\$568,272 76	\$454,227 20

## REMARKS.

The *comparative* exhibit is modified so as to present a cash valuation upon the property, a valuation which could be realized in case of sale, and differs from the exhibit to the Annual Conferences in the following

items: Real Estate, less, \$20,112 84; amount due on Periodical account is thrown out, because subscriptions received in advance would about offset the same, \$10,000; Merchandise, 10 per cent. deducted, \$15,488 18; Printing-office stock, 10 per cent. deducted, \$11,683 08; Bindery stock, 10 per cent. deducted, \$10,657 56; Notes and Book Accounts, 25 per cent. additional deducted, \$46,103 90. Total, less than the showing made to the Annual Conferences, \$114,045 56.

#### PRICES OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Much has been said and written, especially in the past, about the high price of the publications of the Book Concern. The advantages, however, of such high prices, if they were so at the time, did not accrue to the Concern as much as to those who purchased to sell again, from the fact that the most liberal discount was allowed. But, without any abatement of that discount to the preachers and wholesale purchasers, the publications have from time to time been reduced in price to such an extent that we may safely challenge the world of book publishers in this respect. We are perfectly willing the publications of the Concern, so far as mere mechanical execution is concerned, should be compared with those of any house in the country. We have taken the pains, in some instances, to institute a comparison, more for the purpose of satisfying our brethren than ourselves; and we find that they are cheaper than several of the New-York publishing houses, particularly our recent publications; that works which we sell for one dollar, a book corresponding in size, and frequently much inferior in paper and binding, is sold by others for one dollar and a quarter. This fact can be verified by any one who will take the pains to make the comparison. So much have our books been reduced in price, that, instead of the allegation that they are dearer than those of any other establishment, it may be affirmed, as a general thing, that they are from twenty to twenty-five per cent. cheaper, notwithstanding the discounts we are obliged to allow to wholesale purchasers are much larger.

As regards our periodicals, it may be asserted that, when compared with others, whether literary or religious, they are much cheaper; and it may be affirmed, upon the whole, that our Church furnishes its members, and the reading public at large, with books and periodicals on religion and literature, cheaper than is furnished by any other Church.

Frequent remarks are made about the cheapness of the publications of the American Tract Society and the American Sunday-School Union; but our Tract and Sunday-School Departments furnish books which will compare favorably with either in this respect, notwithstanding these societies are sustained by contributions from the various Churches, amounting annually to thousands of dollars. Our Tract and Sunday-school books, both for cheapness and variety, are not excelled by any similar productions; and the most thoroughly progressive among us, when all the facts are brought before them, could not find it in their hearts to charge the Concern with dereliction in duty in anything pertaining to a sound and healthy progress.

Fill every department with the right kind of men—men who will

stand by their posts and work up to the extent of their ability for the promotion of the interests of the Institution, and there can be no calculating the results. What has already been done will be but the beginning of greater things for God and for the Church.

CARLTON & PHILLIPS.

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## M.

### REPORT AND EXHIBIT OF THE AGENTS OF THE WESTERN BOOK CONCERN.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN : It becomes our duty, according to Discipline, to submit to you a report of the business of the Western Book Concern for the past four years.

In doing this, it is scarcely necessary to say they have been years of unprecedented solicitude and care to your Agents ; growing principally out of the Church Suit and the unparalleled financial difficulties that have passed over our country—all of which have called for the exercise of our best skill to save the Concern, if not from suspension, from the most serious embarrassment.

We are happy, however, in making up our account, to find that the Concern, though necessarily reduced in its resources, is still in a healthy and safe condition, as will appear from the accompanying Exhibit up to November 30, 1855.

And here it may be proper to give the reasons, already set forth in our Circular, sent to some of the Annual Conferences, for changing the time of getting out our Exhibit from March 31st to November 30th. The reasons are the following : 1. March 31st was not the most suitable time, being in the midst of our business year. 2. Ever since the first of January has been the period for the commencement of our periodical subscriptions, we have been compelled, in making our Exhibits to the above-named date, to embrace portions of two years of the periodical business, which has always been the occasion of considerable trouble ; while the period now adopted is as near the close of our contracts with subscribers as can possibly be fixed upon. 3. Our Exhibits made to that time were more than one year old when presented to some of the Conferences.

The Exhibit now presented, being the commencement of a new series of Exhibits, growing out of the recent settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, shows the condition of the Concern November 30, 1855—from which you will perceive that the capital stock of the Concern has been reduced from \$216,203 53 to \$150,405 74, by the deduction of the debt due the Church, South, the expenses of the Church Suit, and the reduction in our inventory of the entire stock on hand to its cash value. But for these extraordinary reductions, the



capital stock would have been, at the date of our Exhibit, \$250,816 62; which would show a profit in our business, from March 31, 1852, to November 30, 1855—a period of three and two-third years—of \$34,613 09.

Our sales of books, including those sold to the Chicago Depository, for the last four years, ending March 31st, amount to.....	\$346,886 80	
Being an increase over the previous four years of....		\$86,057 27
Periodical sales for the same time, including those sold to the Depository, amount to .....	302,953 93	
Making an increase over the past four years of.....		90,804 63
Total book and periodical sales .....	\$649,840 73	
Total increase.....		\$176,861 90

We are compelled to say that the Tract organization, in its present form, has been rather prejudicial to our sales at the Western Book Concern, from the fact that we have declined credit sales to the Conference Tract Agents, except to very limited amounts, for the following reasons: 1. The Annual Conferences were unwilling to assume the responsibility of paying said debts. 2. We did not think it safe either for brethren themselves or the Concern to extend credit to individuals for large amounts. This has, in some instances, induced the Tract Agents West to turn their trade to the New-York Concern. To colporteurs we have made no sales on time.

The increasing demand on us for books and periodicals has rendered it necessary that we should add to our facilities for publishing, etc., to enable us to meet said demand.

We have, therefore, added, during the past term, two stories to the Book Room Building, cornering on Main and Eighth streets, and removed the wooden columns, and supplied their places with iron, making the building much more permanent, at a cost of about \$5,500; and have remodeled the internal arrangements of the building, so as to adapt it to the wants of our business, at a cost of say, \$1,000.

We have also introduced into our Book Room Building the necessary apparatus for warming the entire building by steam brought from our Printing-Office, which cost \$1,350.

We have added to our Bindery a sawing and a cutting machine, and one embossing press, at a cost of \$1,000.

We have also added to our Printing Department a small building, for wetting paper, mailing-room, and a room in which we run two presses, at a cost of about \$700.

We have added during the past four years two Adams's improved presses, and one Taylor's improved cylinder press.

At this time we are running seven presses—six for printing books, and one for printing the Western Christian Advocate and the Christian Apologist.

We are now in a condition to do a large amount of printing, binding, etc.; and yet, should our business enlarge as it has, we shall soon find ourselves crowded for room.

We have printed during the past term:

Bound volumes for the Concern .....	768,300	copies
Tracts for the Concern .....	745,750	"
Bound volumes for others .....	71,500	"
Pamphlets, consisting of Minutes of Conferences, Catalogues, etc. ....	65,000	"
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>1,650,550</b>	<b>"</b>

We have added to our Catalogue during the past four years thirty-six new works in the English language, and have several more in press; we have also stereotyped and issued during the same time thirty-one volumes and thirty-one tracts in German; making a total of sixty-seven new works and thirty-one tracts.

Our periodicals are all in a most flourishing condition :

We are sending out now of the Western Christian Advocate ....	28,718	
Giving us an increase in the past four years of .....		7,718
The Ladies' Repository has a subscription list of .....	29,580	
Which is an increase of .....		16,580
The Christian Apologist has a subscription list of .....	6,967	
Being an increase of .....		3,593

Our other periodicals have subscription lists as follows :

Sunday School Advocate .....	31,192
Missionary Advocate .....	5,055
National Magazine .....	2,163
Quarterly Review .....	442

All the periodicals published at the Western Book Concern are now yielding an annual profit.

Among other duties assigned us by the last General Conference, we were instructed to establish a paper and Depository of books at Chicago; the paper to be called the Northwestern Christian Advocate. This we proceeded to do; and although the rush of conferences came upon us immediately after the General Conference, and our Church Suit with the South was also pending, involving great care and anxiety, as may be seen by reference to the report of the Commissioners of the Church Suit for the Western Book Concern, yet we had our Depository established and stocked with books for the trade early in the fall of the same year; and in carrying out the provisions for a weekly paper, we effected our arrangements so as to send out a specimen number in the fall of 1852; and the first number of the Northwestern Christian Advocate was issued in the first week of January, 1853.

The Depository has exceeded our most sanguine expectations.

The sales of books at that place, since the establishment of the Depository, in October, 1852, up to March 31, 1856—a period of three years and five months—have been .....	\$142,209 67
Periodicals for the same time .....	85,164 28
<b>Total book and periodical sales</b> .....	<b>\$227,373 95</b>

The number of subscribers to the periodicals at the Chicago Depository is as follows :

Northwestern Christian Advocate .....	10,033
Ladies' Repository .....	7,200
National Magazine .....	2,400
Sunday School Advocate .....	13,300
Missionary Advocate .....	3,000
Quarterly Review .....	218

The Northwestern Christian Advocate has been published at a loss of \$4,653 30 ; but will, no doubt, soon pay for itself and yield a profit to the Concern. But for the heavy debt due the South, and the consequent importance of husbanding our finances, we should not hesitate to suggest to the General Conference the propriety of ordering the purchase of a suitable lot, and the erection of such a building or buildings as would answer for the Depository and the printing of the paper in Chicago.

We were also authorized to establish, at our discretion, a Depository and a paper at St. Louis, when, in our judgment, it would be safe to do so. In view of the heavy liabilities upon us, there has been no time when we have thought it would be safe to the Concern to establish a Depository of books at that place. Under date of August 21, 1854, we proposed to the patronizing Conferences, upon their advising it, to publish a paper, commencing January 1, 1855 ; but, about the time of the meeting of the Publishing Committee for the final settlement of the question, we were in the midst of the great financial shock which was upon the country, and was so severely felt in the West, and especially in our own city. The farmer and mechanic were suffering alike with the merchant. In fact, an overwhelming panic had seized upon the people, such as had never been felt before in the United States.

In our own city, by suspensions and failures, a large amount of capital was locked up, including about \$9,000 of the funds of the Book Concern and the Missionary Society ; and at the very time that we were setting out to attend the meeting of the Publishing Committee, the news reached us that \$3,000 of our funds were shut up in the Union Bank of Chicago, which had suspended ; and on the very day that we started for St. Louis, the run commenced on the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company of Cincinnati, in which nearly all of our remaining funds were deposited. In this state of things, although we had pledged ourselves to the Conferences to commence the paper, we felt ourselves compelled to abandon it, and so reported to the Publishing Committee at a meeting held at St. Louis, November 22, 1854. This was done with the concurrence of the members of the Committee present after hearing the facts in the case.

It may be proper, before closing our Report, to call the special attention of the General Conference to the encouraging increase of the German publications and sales, from which it will be seen that the German books are no longer published at a loss to the Concern, but, on the contrary, some profit. Our German brethren have earnestly desired a much larger increase in the variety of German publications. This demand we have not been able to meet, from the fact that Dr. Nast, in connection with his other editorial duties, has not been able, without such assistance as he could not procure, to do more than he has done

in preparing German books for the press. In view of this expressed desideratum of a larger supply of German books, and the request for the publication of a semi-monthly Sabbath-school paper in the German language, we would respectfully suggest to the General Conference to consider the propriety of appointing an assistant editor in the German department, as it is thought the desired help can only be procured from among the German traveling preachers.

With regard to the Sabbath-school paper in the German language, we are told that our sister German Protestant denominations are publishing such a paper for their Sabbath schools, and if we do not provide our children with a periodical of this kind in the German language, our schools will be compelled to supply themselves elsewhere. It is thought by our German brethren that there will be a sufficient patronage from the beginning to save the Book Concern from loss. The great variety of cuts that we have accumulated from year to year, in publishing the English Sunday School Advocate, will enable us to furnish a cheaper and better periodical in German than any other Church can do.

With regard to the German Commentary on the New Testament, which the last General Conference instructed the German editor to prepare for publication, "and for which the Book Agents at Cincinnati were authorized to provide the editor with the help he might need to any amount not exceeding \$1,000," we have to report, that the editor found it impossible to undertake this great work alone, and that neither he nor the Agents could succeed in finding aid suitable to so responsible a work; and besides this difficulty, the editor wishes us to say that he would have hesitated to proceed in this great work for the following considerations:

1. The great disproportion between the expense of the work and our limited German membership.
2. The fact that the General Conference ordered a brief Commentary, and the almost unanimous judgment of our German brethren that, in order to obtain the object of the proposed Commentary, it should not be brief, but full and large, and that the publication of a large Commentary would pay cost better.
3. The hope that before long the Church would publish a new Commentary, compiled by abler men and clothed with proper authority, which might then be translated into German.

Finally, we beg leave to say that, as your Agents in the performance of the highly-responsible duties devolving upon us during our Agency, we claim to have acted for the time being with reference to the best interests of the Concern we represent.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SWORMSTEDT & POE, *Agents.*

CINCINNATI, March 31, 1856.



EXHIBIT, NOVEMBER 30, 1855.

DEAR BRETHREN : The late settlement with the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, renders it necessary for us to commence a new series of Exhibits ; and having for some time felt the inconvenience of making them up to March 31st, the former date, we have thought this the most suitable time for making a change. We therefore now present you an Exhibit of the condition of the Western Book Concern at this date.

Very respectfully, your servants in Christ,

SWORMSTEDT & POE, *Agents.*

RESOURCES.

*Stock on hand :*

Books, bound and in sheets, Stationery, etc. ....	\$48,627 35
Presses, Plates, Type, Printing Paper, etc. ....	34,258 80
Materials and Tools in Bindery .....	7,073 07
Editors' Libraries, Furniture in Offices, etc.....	1,000 00

\$90,959 22

<i>Notes and Accounts</i> .....	\$67,054 01
Deduct 15 per cent. for probable losses.....	10,058 10

\$56,995 91

<i>Real Estate in Cincinnati</i> .....	\$75,000 00
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<i>Stock in Cincinnati Fuel Company</i> .....	100 00
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<i>Stock in Fireman's Insurance Company</i> .....	100 00
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<i>Cash and Drafts on hand</i> .....	10,871 71
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\$234,026 84

LIABILITIES.

<i>Notes and Accounts, including the balance due the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.</i> .....	\$83,621 10
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<i>Net Capital, November 30, 1855.</i> .....	\$150,405 74
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N. B. The amount which the Western Book Concern, according to adjustment between the Commissioners, agreed to pay the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was :

In cash payments .....	\$60,000 00
In Books .....	20,000 00
In Southern Notes and Accounts .....	12,926 61

\$92,926 61

On this amount the Agents have paid :

In cash .....	\$15,000 00
In Books .....	9,046 17
In Notes and Accounts .....	12,926 61

\$36,972 78

\$55,953 83

This balance is to be paid :

In cash payments .....	\$45,000 00
In Books .....	10,953 83

\$55,953 83

But for the settlement with the Church, South, and the expenses of the suit since the General Conference of 1852, the Concern would now have a net capital stock of.....\$250,816 62

## N.

## REPORT OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN BOOK CONCERN.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: We have met annually at Cincinnati to attend to the duties with which we were charged by the General Conference of 1852, and have given to the interests committed to our watch-care, such attention as will authorize us to speak with confidence and pleasure of the prudent and faithful management of the Concern by your Agents, Brothers Swormstedt and Poe.

With our advice and approval, the Agents have made very important improvements to the property by adding two stories to the main building, and by furnishing increased facilities for carrying on the business of the Book Room.

So far as we have been able to learn, there has been no want of economy or of attention to the pecuniary interests of the Concern by your Agents. They have had to grapple with the difficulties accruing from the unsettled state of the monetary affairs of the country, and the additional perplexities of the settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Your Agents have been successful, under these disadvantageous circumstances, in maintaining the character of the Western Book Concern, in regard to its ability and promptitude in meeting all its liabilities. The books of the Concern are neatly and correctly kept, and the premises are in good order, and the working apartments are conveniently and comfortably arranged.

There have been added to the regular catalogue sixty-seven books and thirty-one tracts during the four years, and several additional volumes are in the course of publication.

We refer you to the report of the Book Agents for the amount of sales during the four years past.

We are gratified in being able to report that all the periodicals published at the Western Book Concern are in a highly prosperous condition, and you will, doubtless, appreciate the efforts of the editors of these periodicals, as contributing to this result.

By the report of the Agents, you will be pleased to learn that the Depository at Chicago is doing a good work, and that the prospect is good for the success of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, as a self-supporting member of the family of Church Periodicals.

We deem it not improper to suggest to the General Conference that the Tract Society, as at present organized and operating, is not accomplishing the design of its creation, and respectfully suggest the propriety of some better and more efficient and profitable arrangement.

We commend all these interests to your fostering care, praying that

the blessing of God may rest upon these important auxiliaries in spreading Scriptural holiness all over these lands.

G. W. WALKER, President, *Cincinnati.*

PETER CARTWRIGHT, *Illinois.*

LUCIEN W. BERRY, *Iowa.*

R. SAPP, *Michigan.*

JOS. M. TRIMBLE, *Ohio.*

S. C. COOPER, *N. Indiana.*

CINCINNATI, *April 29, 1856.*

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O.

REPORT OF THE MINORITY OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE OF THE  
WESTERN BOOK CONCERN.

*To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference of the Methodist  
Episcopal Church in General Conference assembled :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: The undersigned, a member of the Book Committee of the Cincinnati Book Concern, respectfully begs leave to present the following as a Minority Report. This measure is not prompted by any unkind feelings among the members of the committee, but by an honest difference of opinion respecting the powers and duties of the Book Committee. Nor is it intended, in this statement, to complain of any one, or to examine the matters treated of in the report presented by the majority, but mainly to bring to the notice of the General Conference the ground of difference between us and other members of the committee, which, in the judgment of the undersigned, requires the decision of the General Conference. The following preamble and resolutions, containing our views on the subject, were presented to the committee at its last meeting, April 29th, with the hope that the matter might be adjusted without reference to this body, but the majority did not see fit to acquiesce in the measure.

*Whereas*, it is provided in the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church, that 'It shall be the duty of the Book Committee to examine into the condition of the Book Concern, to inspect the accounts of the Agents, and to make a report thereof, yearly, to all the Annual Conferences, and to the General Conference; and,

*Whereas*, the interests of the Concern on the one hand, and the protection of the administration on the other hand, require that such 'examination' and 'inspection' should extend to, and include, the annual receipts and expenditure of the funds of the Concern; and,

*Whereas*, a difference of opinion exists among the members of the Book Committee, in respect to their authority to audit the accounts of the Agents, and the practicability of the measure; and as information

has been received from the Agents, that the books of the Concern are not so kept and arranged as to render such an inspection of the accounts practicable; and,

"Whereas, all the interests involved require that those differences of opinion should be fully settled, and the obstacles (if any exist) in the way of a thorough inspection of the accounts of the Agents should be removed; therefore,

"1. *Resolved*, That it is the duty of the Book Committee to inspect the accounts of the Agents, to the extent of ascertaining the amount of funds annually received, and the objects and purposes for which such funds have been expended.

"2. *Resolved*, That the Book Committee respectfully request the Agents of the Cincinnati Book Concern so to arrange and keep the books and accounts of the Concern, together with any vouchers that may be deemed necessary, as to render the above examination and inspection as easy and practicable as possible."

A majority of the committee declining to adopt the above resolutions, or to take any action on the subject, left the undersigned no other course to pursue than either, 1st, to sign the report of the majority, which, in his opinion, was not the result of such an examination of the Concern, and inspection of the accounts of the Agents, as the rule of Discipline contemplates; or, 2d, to neglect what he conceived to be an official duty, and allow this subject still to remain in doubt; or, 3d, to submit it for final decision to the judgment of the General Conference. The latter course has been chosen, with the humble request that the Conference will definitely express its views, whether it is not the duty of the Book Committee, under the rule of Discipline, to "inspect the accounts of the Agents," in the sense of auditing those accounts; and whether the books of the Concern should not be so arranged and kept as to render such inspection as practicable and easy as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. POWER.

May 3, 1856.

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P.

## REPORT OF THE BOOK COMMITTEE AT NEW-YORK.

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN: The Book Committee appointed by the General Conference, at its session in 1852, in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline, make their Report to the General Conference, to be held in Indianapolis in May, 1856.

The committee having given all the attention to the important duties assigned them, which their limited time would permit, are happy to say, that so far as they are able to judge, the business of the Book Concern has been faithfully conducted. The Agents have proved themselves fully adequate to the management of the varied interests of the Concern,



under the new and pressing emergencies through which it has passed, arising from increasing demands for our publications, great pressure in the monetary concerns of the country, and heavy liabilities arising from the settlement of the claim of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It would not have been matter of wonder, if in a path to them so new, and so large a portion of it entirely untrodden, our brethren, intrusted with this great interest, had made some material failures; but your committee are free to say that the administration of the agency has been such as to entitle them to the approbation and gratitude of the General Conference and the Church at large.

The buildings of the Book Concern are in a state of excellent repair, improvements having been made which add much to the convenience of the establishment, and afford increased facilities to those who are engaged in prosecuting the various branches of its business. The machinery has been much improved. New and improved presses have been substituted for such as were antiquated and comparatively inefficient. By these means the power of the Concern has been greatly increased at a comparatively small expense.

There have been added to the catalogue of books, during the past four years, two hundred and forty-seven volumes, and several of these are volumes of considerable size, and of great importance to our literature. The sales of the Concern have amounted to \$1,000,734 18, and the business has yielded a profit of \$191,262 77. These are results which your committee think should be regarded as highly satisfactory.

#### DEPOSITORIES.

The Depositories established, in conformity with the action of the General Conference, at Boston, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo, are in successful operation. The amount of sales for four years is as follows: Boston, \$129,814 17; Pittsburgh, \$49,425 66; \*Buffalo, \$12,000.

An experiment of a Branch of the Concern in the city of New-York has been in progress for some six years, and the results, as your Committee think, have not been such as to warrant the conclusion that such an establishment is expedient. The question, it is presumed, will receive due attention from the General Conference.

Your committee are of opinion that there may be danger of establishing too many depositories. Such are the increased facilities for transportation at the present time, that it would seem to be a measure of common prudence not to increase the risks and expenses of separate establishments much beyond what they are at present.

#### PERIODICALS.

Your committee regret to say that all the periodicals published at New-York come short of supporting themselves, excepting the *Christian Advocate and Journal*, and that has fallen off in the number of its subscribers during the last year.

\*This Depository has been in existence about twenty months; hence the report of sales is for only one year.

The Advocate now has 27,600 upon its subscription list, and yielded a profit for the current year, ending December 30, 1855, of \$3,063 15.

The Quarterly Review has somewhat increased its number of subscribers, now having a list of 2,600, but still has run the Concern in debt \$2,416 97 for the current year.

The National Magazine has a subscription list of 15,500, and was a loss to the Concern, the past year, of \$4,438 57.

The Sunday-School Advocate has a circulation of 80,000, and failed to meet its expenses, in 1855, by \$5,887 70. The mechanical execution and the quality of the paper are evidently too expensive for the present price of the paper. It will be a question for the General Conference to settle, whether it will be good policy to reduce the quality of the paper, number, and expenses of the cuts, &c., or continue to publish the paper at a loss.

#### TRACT SOCIETY.

The Tract Society is an important branch of our economy, and may be considered as having fairly commenced its career of usefulness. It only becomes us to speak of the institution as an instrumentality through which the Book Concern can act upon the public mind. The relations of the two, perhaps, are not yet quite sufficiently defined. Your committee would respectfully suggest that the relation of the Book Concern and the Tract Society should be so adjusted, and responsibility for the debts contracted for books should be so located, as that the Tract Society should not be a source of loss to the Book Concern. The General Conference will, doubtless, carefully examine into the whole question, and make all necessary and suitable provision for the harmonious and effective action of the two departments.

#### SUGGESTIONS.

Facts and circumstances have arrested the attention of the Book Committee, during the past four years, which have brought us to certain conclusions, which we feel bound to present to the General Conference for its consideration. We shall not undertake to sustain our opinions by a lengthened argument in this report, but should the General Conference be induced, by our suggestions, to look at the reasons upon which they are based, or, if they are not obvious, should our suggestions elicit them from any quarter, so that they may be fully appreciated, our object will be answered.

We would suggest the possibility of multiplying General Conference papers beyond the necessities of the Church.

We would also suggest that the editors at New-York should reside in that city, or in its immediate neighborhood, and occupy offices in the Book Room. Also, that editors should not, at their own motion, leave the country, and devolve their duties upon others.

Finally: That the General Conference editors should not disparage the Book Concern in their publications. We believe that the importance of the Concern, as a tributary to the Church's power, can scarcely be overrated, and we think that it is entitled to the sympathy and hearty

coöperation of the whole Church; and certainly we think it ought to be protected from the assaults of our own editors.

During the past four years a great crisis has taken place in the history of the Book Concern. We refer to the settlement of the litigation with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the consequent heavy liabilities of the Concern. The present financial condition of the Concern, we presume, will be presented by the Agents in their report, and must not be entered into by us.

This brief survey of interests committed to us for our annual inspection and advisement, we now submit to the General Conference as our report.

GEORGE PECK, *Wyoming Conference.*

C. B. TIPPETT, *Baltimore Conference.*

T. J. THOMPSON, *Philadelphia Conference.*

J. PORTER, *New-England Conference.*

S. ALLEN, *Maine Conference.*

M. CROW, *East Genesee Conference.*

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## Q.

### REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHURCH SUIT IN THE WEST.

THE Commissioners appointed to attend to the Church Suit in the West beg leave to report. They attended the trial in the Circuit Court of Ohio, where the case was argued by able counsel on both sides, and the decision was in favor of the defendants. No sooner was the decision rendered than notice of an appeal was given.

At an early period after this decision was rendered, Judge M'Lean voluntarily mediating between the parties, proposed an amicable settlement with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The judge in his letter of October 29, 1852, says, "As the late decision places the Methodist Episcopal Church on its proper ground, and must vindicate its course in the estimation of all intelligent and unprejudiced men, I advise strongly and decidedly that a compromise be proposed by it."

The Commissioners of the suit in the East resolved, "That if the commission in the West should take measures for an amicable settlement, and succeed in obtaining such a settlement as the following, namely: that all proceedings in the civil courts between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, forever cease, then and in case the decision of the Court in New-York shall be satisfactory, we will give it our sanction, provided also the Book Agents at Cincinnati will allow an assessment upon the Western Concern, in proportion to the amount of property at New-York and Cincinnati."

To which the Commissioners of the West answered:

"That while we regret the litigation before the civil courts occasioned by the suits brought by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and feel disposed to do everything that justice, equity, or a Christian spirit may demand, we do not think we are required to make any proposition for compromise, or that it would be proper for us to do so.

"That we hold ourselves in readiness respectfully, and patiently, to consider any further suggestions which may be made by the Eastern commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, touching a proposition for compromise, or to confer with them on this subject."

In communicating the foregoing, we suggested reasons why a proposition for compromise might with more propriety come from them.

Early in December, 1852, your Commissioners, acting upon suggestions of counsel, addressed a circular letter to the Bishops, containing in substance the following inquiries, namely: 1. Would you advise that the Bishops be requested to submit a proposition to make a division of the property of the Book Concern according to the "Plan of Separation" before the Annual Conferences, in order to ascertain whether the requisite majority could be obtained. 2. Do you believe such a proposition would be carried in the Annual Conferences? 3. If an attempt should be made to settle the claim of the South and it should fail, would our position before the public be better or worse?

The Bishops were unanimous in advising against submitting the proposition, and in declaring their opinion, that if it were submitted it would fail, and render our position worse.

The brethren of the Eastern Commission, who were also consulted, returned answers in harmony with those of the Bishops. Your Commissioners, therefore, concluded that nothing could be gained by submitting the question to the Annual Conferences, and they so informed their counsel. In May, 1853, the Eastern Commissioners were convened, at the instance of Judge M'Lean, and they agreed to a basis of settlement, subject to the condition that the Western Commissioners unite in the proposition. This "basis" was communicated to the Southern Commissioners, and after they had assented to it, it was submitted to us.

Before determining whether we could unite with our brother Commissioners in the East, we requested a meeting with them, which was held at Pittsburgh, Pa., July 6, 1853. Meanwhile we consulted counsel as to our powers, and received the following answer from Mr. Ewing:

"There is, to my mind, a very clear distinction between the powers of the Commissioners over the funds involved in the suit in New-York and the suit in Ohio.

"An interlocutory decree having passed against the Methodist Episcopal Church in New-York, settling the question of right against them, it is in the power of the Commissioners to compromise and settle the details of the final decree in such manner as in their opinion will subserve the interests and promote the well-being of the Church which they represent. The Annual Conferences have no voice in this matter of adjustment and detail. All rests with the General Conference, whose powers are not in this restricted by any organic law, and the General Conference has vested all its powers over this subject-matter in the Commissioners. They therefore have full power to adjust the details of the final decree, not departing



from the principles settled by the interlocutory decree, in such manner as they think proper, and their acts will be binding upon the Church and all else interested by connection with it.

"But the case is totally different with the suit in Ohio, and the property which is affected by it.

"Without criticising too closely the powers granted by the General Conference to the Commissioners over the suit in Ohio, and suffering it to extend, as I think it does, not only to the suit, but with it to the subject-matter in controversy, the property involved in the suit, and the settlement of all matters in litigation concerning it, we yet find the Commissioners clothed only with the power which the General Conference has over the Book Concern before any litigation commenced concerning it.

"It cannot be well argued that the power of the General Conference over the property in, and proceeds of, the Book Concern was enlarged by the fact that there was controversy and litigation concerning it, and that the General Conference was the appropriate repository to conduct and settle litigation. The whole controversy rested and rests on the power of the General Conference to apply this fund in a particular manner. If they have that power, I think, on a liberal construction of their act, they have *quoad hoc* transferred it to the Commissioners. But if they had it not as an original and distinct power, they cannot have acquired it by an abortive attempt (if they did attempt it, which I by no means admit) at its exercise, and by such attempt giving rise to litigation. To hold that this could be done, would be to nullify at once all constitutional restrictions.

"The power of the Commissioners then over the subject-matter of the controversy in Ohio rests upon the power of the General Conference over the proceeds of the Book Concern, subject to the saving of the 6th restrictive article, and there is no decree in the case in Ohio changing the relation of the parties to the property.

"I have heretofore expressed my opinion that the General Conference had no power to change the application of the proceeds of the Book Concern without the consent of the Annual Conferences. This opinion remains unchanged. I have no doubt whatever on the subject. The Circuit Court in the district of Ohio, in the direct case, expressed the same opinion unhesitatingly. In the New-York case, it was held that the effect had been produced, not by a direct exercise of power, which it was not intimated that the General Conference possessed, but that by the destruction of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the organization of two Churches out of its original elements, the rights to the proceeds of the Book Concern followed the persons entitled into the new organization. In my opinion, therefore, the Commissioners have not power to enter into the proposed arrangement, as to the property involved in the suit in Ohio, without first obtaining the consent of the Annual Conferences. But as they have now vested in them all the powers of the General Conference, over the matters in litigation, if the consent of the Annual Conferences could be obtained, the arrangement proposed by Judge M'Lean might safely and properly be entered into."

This opinion settled in our minds the question of power, as the opinion

of the Bishops had settled the question of reference to the Annual Conferences.

At the meeting at Pittsburgh, we received communications from Judges M'Lean and Nelson, advising us of the mode by which the settlement proposed by the former might be carried out.

This is briefly stated in the words of the latter :

"If the Western Corporation voluntarily appear and become parties to the New-York suit, there can be no doubt as to the jurisdiction of the Court over it, nor that the decree would bind it; and as to the powers of the Western Commissioners over the subject-matter, it seems to me the resolution of the General Conference, a copy of which you inclosed, is ample for that purpose."

We never doubted that we might acquire legal power to make the proposed compromise by voluntarily going out of the Circuit Court of Ohio and into the Circuit Court of New-York. This we did not think proper to do. 1. Because it would seem to repudiate a decision which we believed to be right. 2. To endorse a decision that we believed to be wrong. 3. We had no evidence that the principal for which we acted desired us thus to settle the matter in dispute.

We were informed upon inquiry, that the Circuit Court of New-York would not admit a caveat against its own decision, and that the Supreme Court of the United States would not make a decree in the Ohio case by consent of parties, and direct a distribution that might be agreed on.

Solicitous prudently to go to the limit of our power for an amicable settlement, we resolved, 1. That it is inexpedient to unite with our brethren of the Eastern Commission in the proposition for a settlement with the South. 2. That we agree to submit to an arbitration; the arbiters to be chosen in the usual mode, each party choosing one, and the two thus chosen selecting a third; their decision to be final. 3. That while we deeply regret the litigation into which the Methodist Episcopal Church has been forced, we cannot conceive any good reason why the Church we represent and serve, or the cause of religion, should suffer disgrace by our being sued, especially under the circumstances under which the suit was brought, and our appearing as defendants before the Courts of the country. 4. That in case the Commissioners decline our propositions for an arbitration, and will not suspend the prosecution of their appeal to allow us time to take the vote of the Annual Conferences, we consider ourselves shut up to the necessity of calmly awaiting the decision which the Supreme Court of the United States may make in our case.

These resolutions were transmitted to the distinguished gentleman who acted as mediator between the parties, and he was informed that it was understood by us that the proposed arbitration was to be under the sanction of the Court. He having declined to present our proposition to the Southern Commissioners, we made it directly, and received from them a direct but respectful refusal.

Mr. Ewing, at one time, in view of the settlement of the New-York case, and the uncertainty respecting the issue of ours in the Court of ultimate resort, although he felt confident that the law was with us, expressed a wish that there might be a compromise of the matter; but subsequently, under date of February 1, 1854, he writes:

"On full reflection, I am satisfied that the conclusion you have come to is the best. You are trustees, and you follow the law of your trust both as it was expounded to you by your counsel and adjudged by the Court; and nothing but a general consent of the ministry would warrant your departure from the straight line marked out by the law."

Your Commissioners attended the trial at Washington. The result is known to the country. Soon after the decision of the Supreme Court was published, we proposed to the Southern Commissioners an amicable liquidation of their claim against the Western Book Concern, with a view to save both delay and cost in the appointment of a Master Commissioner.

We are happy to observe that no unkind feelings have influenced us in the discharge of the duty assigned us, and that our intercourse, both with the Eastern and Southern Commissioners, has been most friendly. The former proposed to us the question, whether we had any objection to the separate adjustment of the claim of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, against the New-York Book Concern, and were assured that we had not. We felt every disposition to accommodate, but were determined not to transcend our powers. Although we were forewarned of the result, we are not responsible for it. Indeed, the same authority which predicted the issue, proclaimed Judge Nelson's decision in the New-York case to be wrong, and Judge Leavitt's decision in ours to be right. For ourselves, we do not regret that the Supreme Court has decided the case. If it has decided according to the law, it is well for us, for the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church, for the whole country, that the law should be proclaimed by our highest judicial tribunal. If it has decided otherwise, it behooves us all to know how far the Supreme Court of the United States can be relied upon.

The Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, having responded favorably to our proposition for an amicable adjustment, a meeting was arranged for that purpose.

After a calculation of the claim of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, against the Western Book Concern, we proposed to give them seventy thousand dollars.

This proposition was declined, on the alleged ground that the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, according to the exhibit of the Western Book Concern, and the mandate of the Supreme Court, was entitled to from ninety to ninety-six thousand dollars.

It should be observed that, according to the mandate of the Court, the capital, up to 1845, was to be divided *pro rata* by the number of the traveling preachers, which would give the South from 28 to 30 per cent. on the capital; but that, instead of dividing the profits since 1845 upon the same principle, it directs that they shall be divided *pro rata* by Conference, which raised the proportion of the South to 42 per cent. on the amount divided.

We subsequently received from the Southern Commissioners a proposition, proposing to take eighty thousand dollars and the Southern debts, amounting to \$12,926 61. To this proposition we acceded. Indeed, when we reflect that the Southern debts were all past due, many of them outlawed, some worthless, and all, while in the hands of the Book Concern, of little or no value; and that the South claimed, and could collect,

under the decree of the Court, the interest on their portion of the capital since the rendering of the decree, and which was not taken into account in our calculation, although it would raise their proportion about three thousand dollars; and that the extension of credit beyond ordinary business limits and the proffered offer of purchases, with which the Southern propositions were accompanied, were greatly advantageous to the Concern at this crisis, we did not perceive that their proposition materially varied from our own.

The mandate required that all the expenses attending the suit, including charges of counsel and solicitors, and traveling expenses of Commissioners, as well of plaintiffs as defendants, should be a common charge on the Concern; but in our settlement it was agreed that each party should bear its own costs, except the taxable costs, amounting to, say \$400, which should be paid by the Concern; and considering the difference in the expenses of the parties, we deemed this arrangement no inconsiderable advantage to us.

Moreover, a separation without a settlement, when there was no principle involved, would have been little less than disgraceful.

We, therefore, drew up and signed the following final decree, namely:

"WILLIAM A. SMITH, <i>et al.</i> , <i>vs.</i> LEROY SWORMSTEDT, <i>et al.</i>	}	U. S. CIRCUIT COURT FOR OHIO, April 7, 1855.
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"And now come the said complainants, and, on their motion, the following decree, rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States at the December Term thereof, A. D. 1853, and the mandate thereon, are ordered to be entered, and the same is accordingly done, as follows:

"WILLIAM A. SMITH, <i>et al.</i> , <i>vs.</i> "LEROY SWORMSTEDT, <i>et al.</i>	}
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"Appeal from the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Ohio.

"This cause came on to be heard on the transcript of the record from the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Ohio, and was argued by counsel. On consideration whereof it is ordered, adjudged, and decreed by this Court, that the decree of said Circuit Court in this cause be and the same is hereby reversed and annulled; and this Court doth further find, adjudge, and decree,

"1. That under the resolution of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, holden at the city of New-York, according to the usage and Discipline of said Church, passed on the eighth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, (in the pleadings mentioned,) it was among other things, and in virtue of the power of the said General Conference, well agreed and determined by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, as then existing, that in case the Annual Conferences in the slaveholding states should find it necessary to unite in a distinct ecclesiastical connection, the ministers, local and traveling, of every grade and office in the Methodist



Episcopal Church, might attach themselves to such new ecclesiastical connection, without blame.

“2. That the said Annual Conferences in the slaveholding states did find and determine that it was right, expedient, and necessary to erect the Annual Conferences last aforesaid into a distinct ecclesiastical connection, based upon the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church aforesaid, comprehending the doctrines and entire moral and ecclesiastical rule and regulations of the said Discipline, (except only in so far as verbal alterations might be necessary to or for a distinct organization,) which new ecclesiastical connection was to be known by the name and style of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and that the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was duly organized, under said resolutions of the said General Conference, and the said decision of said Annual Conferences last aforesaid, in a convention thereof held at Louisville, in the State of Kentucky, in the month of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

“3. That by force of the said resolutions of June the eighth, eighteen hundred and forty-four, and of the authority and power of the said General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church as then existing, by which the same were adopted, and by virtue of the said finding and determination of the said Annual Conferences in the slaveholding states therein mentioned, and by virtue of the organization of such conferences into a distinct ecclesiastical connection as last aforesaid, the religious association known as the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, as then existing, was divided into two associations, or distinct Methodist Episcopal Churches, as in the Bill of complaint is alleged.

“4. That the property denominated the Methodist Book Concern at Cincinnati, in the pleadings mentioned, was, at the time of said division and immediately before, a fund subject to the following use, that is to say, that the profits arising therefrom, after retaining a sufficient capital to carry on the business thereof, were to be regularly applied toward the support of the different traveling, supernumerary, superannuated, and worn-out preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, their wives, widows, and children, according to the rules and Discipline of said Church, and that the said fund and property are held under the act of incorporation in the said answer mentioned, by the said defendants, Leroy Swormstedt and John H. Power, as Agents of said Book Concern, and in trust for the purposes thereof.

“5. That, in virtue of the said division of said Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, the deficient, traveling, supernumerary, superannuated, and worn-out preachers, their wives, widows, and children, comprehended in, or in connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were, are, and continue to be beneficiaries of the said Book Concern, to the same extent and as fully as if the said division had not taken place, and in the same manner and degree as persons of the same description who are comprehended in, or in connection with, the other association, denominated since the division, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and that as well the principal as the profits of said Book Concern, since said division, should of right be administered and managed by the respective General and Annual Conferences of the said two associations and

Churches under the separate organizations thereof, and according to the shares or proportions of the same as hereinafter mentioned, and in conformity with the rules and Discipline of said respective associations, so as to carry out the purposes and trusts aforesaid.

“6. That so much of the capital and property of said Book Concern at Cincinnati, wherever situated, and so much of the produce and profits thereof, as may not have been heretofore accounted for to said Church, South, in the New-York case hereinafter mentioned, or otherwise, shall be paid to said Church, South, according to the rate and proportions following, that is to say: In respect to the capital, such share or part as corresponds with the proportion which the number of the traveling preachers in the Annual Conferences which formed themselves into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, bore to the number of all the traveling preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church before the division thereof, which numbers shall be fixed and ascertained as they are shown by the minutes of the several Annual Conferences next preceding the said division and new organization in the month of May, A. D. eighteen hundred and forty-five.

“And in respect to the produce or profits, such share or part as the number of Annual Conferences which formed themselves into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, bore, at the time of said division in May, A. D. 1845, to the whole number of Annual Conferences then being in the Methodist Episcopal Church, excluding the Liberia Conference, so that the division or apportionment of said produce and profits shall be had by conferences, and not by numbers of the traveling preachers.

“7. That said payment of capital and profits, according to the ratios of apportionment so declared, shall be made and paid to the said Smith, Parsons, and Green, as Commissioners aforesaid, or their successors, on behalf of said Church, South, and the beneficiaries therein, or to such other person or persons as may be thereto authorized by the General Conference of said Church, South, the same to be subsequently managed and administered, so as to carry out the trusts and uses aforesaid, according to the Discipline of said Church, South, and the regulations of the General Conference thereof.

“8. And, in order more fully to carry out the matters hereinbefore settled and adjudged, it is further ordered and decreed, that this cause be remanded to the said Circuit Court for further proceedings; that is to say,

“That the same be referred to a master to take and state an account as follows:

“(1.) Of the amount and value of the said Book Concern at Cincinnati, on the first day of May, 1845, and of what specific property and effects (according to a general description or classification thereof) the same then consisted, whether composed of real or personal estate, and of whatever nature or description the same may have been, and a similar account as of the date or time, when the said master shall take this account.

“(2.) Of the produce and profits of said Book Concern from the time of the General Conference of May, 1844, as reported thereto, (if so reported,) up to the time of the said division in May, 1845, and from the last mentioned date down to the time of making up his report, specifying how

much of said profits and produce have been transferred to said Book Concern at New-York, and accounted for to said Church, South, in the settlement of the case there, and how much remains to be accounted for to said Church, South, on the basis settled by this decree.

“And in taking said accounts, and in the execution of said reference, the said defendants shall produce on oath all deeds, accounts, books of accounts, instruments, reports, letters, and copies of letters, memoranda, documents, and writings whatever pertinent to said reference, in their possession or control, and the said defendants may be examined on oath, on the said reference, and each party may produce evidence before the master, and have process to compel the attendance of witnesses.

“And the said master is further directed, in respect to any annual profits of said Concern, not heretofore accounted for to said Church, South, to allow to said Church, South, interest at the rate of six per cent. upon such unpaid balances from the date at which the same ought to have been paid.

“And, in respect to all the costs in this case, including the costs of the reference, and all other costs from the commencement of the case until its conclusion; and in respect to the fees of counsel and solicitors therein of both parties, so far as the same may be reasonable; and in respect of just and necessary expenses, as well of plaintiffs as of defendants, in conducting the suit, the same ought to be paid out of said Book Concern, as a common charge thereon, before appointment and division; and the master is accordingly directed to allow and pay the same to the respective parties entitled thereto, and then to apportion the residue according to the principles fixed in this decree.

“And the master is further directed to return his report to the said Circuit Court with all convenient dispatch, which Court shall then proceed to enforce the payment of whatever sum or sums may be found due to said Church, South, on the confirmation of the master's report, in such installments as may be by said Court adjudged reasonable, each party having due opportunity of excepting to the master's report; and all questions arising upon said report, and not settled by this decree, may be moved before said Circuit Court, to which Court either party shall be at liberty to apply on the footing of this decree.’

“And thereupon came, as well the said complainants, by their solicitor, as also the said defendants, and make known to the Court that they have mutually settled and adjusted the various matters which, by the terms of said decree, were to be ascertained by the reference to a master, as therein directed, as follows, to wit:

“Sec. A. That there be paid by the said Book Concern at Cincinnati to the said William A. Smith, Alexander L. P. Green, and Charles B. Parsons, Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the sum of eighty thousand dollars, in manner hereinafter specified, and that there be assigned and delivered by said Book Concern to said Commissioners, or their appointee, all the debts due to said Book Concern from persons living in Southern States, according to a schedule now made out.

“Which said sum of eighty thousand dollars, and said assignment of

debts, is to be in full discharge of all right, interest, and claim, either in respect of capital or profits, of said Methodist Episcopal Church, South, or the said Commissioners thereof, in and to the said Book Concern, upon the footing of said decree of the Supreme Court of the United States, or otherwise; and it is hereby admitted that the said assignment and delivery of debts has been made in conformity with the above agreement.

"That said sum of eighty thousand dollars shall be payable as follows:

"Sec. B. Fifteen thousand dollars thereof in cash in hand, which sum the said Commissioners of said Church, South, acknowledge to have received from said Book Concern, on the fifteenth day of February, A. D. 1855, being the date of said settlement.

"Sec. C. Ten thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-six, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

"Sec. D. Ten thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

"Sec. E. Ten thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

"Sec. F. Ten thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

"Sec. G. Five thousand dollars on the first day of November, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty, with interest, at the rate of six per cent., from the fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, payable annually.

"Sec. H. Twenty thousand dollars in books of the said Book Concern, payable and deliverable within the term of two years from said fifteenth of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-five, upon such terms as to price and rate of discount upon the usual retail prices as have heretofore been established between the said Book Concern at Cincinnati and the Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for which said sum of twenty thousand dollars so payable in books, the said Book Concern at Cincinnati has this day, to wit, on said fifteenth February, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, entered on its books a credit in account with Messrs. Stevenson & Owen, as Agents of the Book Concern of said Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

"Sec. I. That a decree be entered in conformity with the foregoing terms, and to enforce the performance thereof; and that all taxable costs be paid by said Book Concern at Cincinnati.

"And thereupon, in conformity with said terms, it is ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court, that all and singular the terms of said settlement be well and truly kept and performed; and that the said Book Concern at Cincinnati do pay the said several sums of money and interest, as stipulated in sections C, D, E, F, and G, of said settlement, or



in default thereof, that execution issue therefor, or for such part or parts as may be in arrear; and that said Book Concern at Cincinnati do well and truly pay and discharge the said sum of twenty thousand dollars in the manner specified in said Section H; and in default thereof, that said complainants, or said Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, have leave to apply to this Court for such order or process to enforce the payment, as may be right and according to the usages of Courts of Equity; and it is further ordered, that the said Book Concern at Cincinnati pay all the costs of this suit.

"We, the undersigned, have, on this fifteenth of February, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, settled the various matters left open by said decree of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the manner specified in the foregoing Sections, from Section A to Section I, inclusive; and we do request the Court to enter the same of record, and also the draft of the decree following said Sections.

(Signed)

"W. A. SMITH,  
"A. L. P. GREEN,  
"C. B. PARSONS,

*"Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.*

"JOHN F. WRIGHT,  
"E. THOMSON,  
"M. MARLAY,  
"LEROY SWORMSTEDT,  
"ADAM POE,

*"Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

*"SWORMSTEDT & POE, Agents."*

[L. S.]

Conscious that we have served the Church with faithfulness and integrity, and rejoicing that we have done so with unanimity, we respectfully submit our report.

JOHN F. WRIGHT,  
E. THOMSON,  
M. MARLAY,  
LEROY SWORMSTEDT,  
ADAM POE.

CINCINNATI, February 28, 1856.

## R.

REPORT OF THE WESTERN BOOK AGENTS IN RELATION TO A BOOK  
DEPOSITORY AND A PAPER AT ST. LOUIS.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN : The following resolutions were passed by the General Conference of 1852, May 22 :

1. *Resolved*, That the Book Agents at Cincinnati be, and they are hereby, authorized and instructed to establish a Depository for books and a weekly Paper, to be denominated by such title as they may select, in the city of St. Louis, Mo. ; to be under the direction and control of the Book Agents at Cincinnati. *Provided* that, in the judgment of the Agents, such Depository and periodical can be established and sustained with safety to the interests of the Book Concern.

2. *Resolved*, That a Committee of one from the Illinois, one from the Southern Illinois, one from the Iowa, one from the Arkansas, and one from the Missouri Conference, to be selected by the Conferences respectively, be appointed to superintend the publication of the paper authorized to be published at St. Louis, Mo., and that upon the nomination of said committee, and recommendation of the Missouri Conference, the presiding Bishop be requested to appoint an editor for said paper, when the Book Agents at Cincinnati shall have determined upon its publication.

The conferences named in the last resolution, each appointed a member of the Publishing Committee during their sessions, in the month of October, 1852. A. Poe, being present at all these conferences, informed them that it would be impossible for the Agents to take any steps toward publishing a Paper or establishing a Depository at St. Louis, before the spring of 1853, and for the following reasons :

1. The conferences which our business required us to attend did not close till November 2.

2. We had been unconditionally instructed, by the same General Conference, to establish both a Depository and Paper at Chicago, which had to be done immediately at a very heavy outlay.

3. The expense and toil of the Church Suit in progress would take all of our time and means that could be spared from the regular business of the Concern at Cincinnati till May, 1853.

Notwithstanding this, the committee nominated Rev. W. D. R. Trotter for editor, and proceeded immediately to St. Louis, and issued a circular and prospectus, promising a Paper, to be called the "Central Christian Advocate," and to be commenced the first of January, 1853. A copy of this circular, and letters from Brother Trotter and Dr. Cartwright, member of the committee from Illinois Conference, reached us about the 10th of November, 1852. Bishops Morris, Simpson, and Ames, being in Cincinnati at the time, we laid the circular before them, with the following questions :

1. Have not the committee appointed by the several Western conferences transcended their powers in issuing the accompanying circular, in which they fix the time of publishing the Paper, and also the terms?

2. Can said committee appoint the editor without the concurrence of the Missouri Conference?

3. Was it the design of the General Conference that this committee should take the course they have, before the Agents determined on the publication of the Paper?

CINCINNATI, November 10, 1852.

To which the Bishops promptly replied as follows:

In answering the questions this day submitted by Brothers Swormstedt and Poe, we reply:

1. We understand the Discipline to give the Agents, and not the Book Committee at St. Louis, the power of determining the time and terms of the publication of the proposed Paper.

2. The committee appointed by the several conferences to superintend the publication of a Paper at St. Louis may nominate an editor, but the presiding Bishop cannot appoint him until the Agents have determined upon the publication of the Paper.

3. We should not infer from the reading of the rule that the General Conference designed the committee to proceed in making any arrangements without the previous action of the Agents.

T. A. MORRIS,  
M. SIMPSON,  
E. R. AMES.

CINCINNATI, November 10, 1852.

After duly considering the question in all its bearings, we wrote the following letter to Rev. W. D. R. Trotter.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 15, 1852.

DEAR BROTHER,—Yours, accompanied with your circular, was received on the eve of the meeting of the Bishops and Book Committee.

We herewith send you copies of the questions which we submitted to the Bishops on reading your circular, and also their answers. From these you will perceive that it is the opinion of the Bishops that you have been premature in your proceedings. We have telegraphed you that we cannot endorse your course.

This we must decline for the following reasons:

1. Because you have gone in advance of the order of the General Conference.

2. It is wholly impracticable for us to make the necessary preparation for issuing a Paper at St. Louis by the 1st of January, 1853.

3. The General Conference having made us responsible for the establishment of a Depository and Paper at St. Louis, we cannot permit others to do this for us.

Our understanding with regard to the action is, that we were to establish a Paper and Depository at Chicago unconditionally, and that the establishment of a Depository and Paper at St. Louis was at our discretion. In compliance with the order and wish of the General Conference, we

have proceeded to open a Depository at Chicago, and arrangements are made for issuing the Paper the 1st of January, 1853. This, with our other duties as Agents, has employed the whole of our time since the General Conference. So that it was impossible for us to take any steps toward doing anything at St. Louis. This our A. Poe was requested to state to the conferences at their late sessions. It has been, and is now our purpose, unless prevented by your movements, to visit St. Louis and inquire into the whole matter, so that we may be able to determine whether we can with "safety to the Concern" establish a Paper and a Depository at that place.

We now respectfully suggest that you suspend your proceedings until we can look into this matter, which we may do some time next spring; and should things be favorable, we may get ready to publish the Paper for you by the first of January, 1854, which, we think, will be as early as you could reasonably expect, in view of all the circumstances.

After a review of this subject, should you resolve on issuing your Paper, the responsibility must be yours, and not ours. We hope you may see your way clear to stop further proceedings. We suspend the publication of your circular in the Western Christian Advocate until we hear from you again. If we publish your circular, we must also publish our questions and the Bishops' answers. This, we think, not best, and therefore await further orders.

Yours truly,

SWORMSTEDT & POE, *Agents.*

We also wrote substantially the same to Dr. Cartwright at the same date.

The editor and committee, however, determined to issue their Paper the first of January, 1853, and did so, of course, on their own responsibility.

In the spring of 1853, we visited St. Louis to ascertain whether we could establish a Depository and Paper, or either of them, with safety to the Concern. After a careful examination, we were satisfied that neither could be done.

And furthermore, we learned that the brethren engaged in publishing the Central Christian Advocate were in debt largely beyond the whole amount of their subscription list, and that they were unwilling to close with their first volume unless we would assume their debts, and purchase their type and fixtures. This we also declined doing, believing that we were not authorized by the action of the General Conference to assume any debt not contracted by ourselves.

In the spring of 1854, we were informed by Dr. Cartwright, at the meeting of the Book Committee in Cincinnati, that the Publishing Committee of the conferences had concluded to give up their Paper at the close of the current volume, and desired that we should commence a Paper; and as our Book Committee advised us, in compliance with their request, to commence said Paper, we issued a circular to the patronizing conferences, informing them that we had concluded, if they would recommend the publication of a Paper at St. Louis, and give us their aid in the enterprise, we would issue a prospectus at the earliest possible period after their sessions should close, and endeavor to be ready to commence the



Paper the first week in January, 1855. The Arkansas Conference did not meet till the first week in November, 1854, and the earliest time we could therefore fix upon, for a meeting of the committee for the final settlement of the question, was the 22d of November. Just before this meeting occurred, an unparalleled crush in money matters took place all over the country, many banks and extensive business houses suddenly failed, and many more suspended. Two banks in Cincinnati, and one in Chicago, where we had funds deposited, suspended, and thus locked up our Book and Missionary Funds to the amount of \$12,000, though at the time our deposits were made all had full confidence in them. At the meeting of the committee we had to inform them of these facts; and the members present, together with Bishop Ames, who was also in St. Louis at the time, agreed with us that, however desirable it might be under more favorable circumstances to issue the paper, we could not incur the expense at that time with probable safety to the interests of the Concern. All of which is respectfully submitted.

SWORMSTEDT & POE, *Agents*.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, May 7, 1856.

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## REPORT OF THE GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

The General Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church submit to the General Conference the following report of its acts and doings for the four preceding years.

There being seven effective superintendents, the work was divided into seven mission districts, and the Bishops constituted the committee by appointing one from each district as follows:

No. 1, Including Baltimore, Philadelphia, New-Jersey, New-York, and New-York East Conferences—N. Bangs.

No. 2, Including Providence, New-England, New-Hampshire, Maine, East Maine, and Vermont Conferences—George Webber.

No. 3, Including Black River, Troy, Wyoming, Oneida, Genesee, and East Genesee Conferences—George Gary.

No. 4, Including Western Virginia, Pittsburgh, Erie, Ohio, Cincinnati, and Kentucky Conferences—John F. Wright.

No. 5, Including North Ohio, Michigan, Northwest Indiana, North Indiana, Southeast Indiana, and Indiana Conferences—Wellington H. Collins.

No. 6, Including Wisconsin, Rock River, Iowa, Illinois, and Southern Illinois—Henry W. Reed.

No. 7, Including Missouri, Arkansas, Oregon, and California Conferences—Christopher J. Houts.

\* For Report on the Bible Cause see *Appendix S*, on page 266.

The first meeting of the committee commenced at the mission rooms, New-York, on November 8, 1852. All the members of the committee were present at the opening except C. J. Houts, who failed to reach New-York until after the close of the session. Thomas Carlton, Treasurer, and John P. Durbin, Corresponding Secretary, were present, and also Bishops Waugh and Scott. Bishop Janes was with us also in the afternoon of the first day. On motion, N. Bangs was elected Chairman, and John P. Durbin, Secretary. Religious services by George Gary.

The committee entered upon their work with care and great deliberation; conscious of their dependence on the Head of the Church, they implored his guidance and help at every step, and applied themselves closely to their important duties; making appropriations for the year 1853 as follows:

#### APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1853.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—*Africa*.—Aggregate amount appropriated, \$26,000.

*South America*.—Buenos Ayres Mission, \$1,000. For the extension of the work in the interior, \$1,000. At the discretion of the Board and Bishop having the charge, for establishing a mission at Monte Video, \$2,000.

*China*.—For the entire expenses of the mission, including the sending out of an additional missionary, \$10,000.

*Germany*.—Foreign German Mission, \$10,000.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.—*Domestic German Missions*, \$43,300.

*Foreign Population other than German*, \$10,250.

*Indian Missions*, \$13,500.

*Domestic Missions* in the several Annual Conferences to extend the work among such as use the English language, \$74,250.

Of this amount, \$15,000 were appropriated to the California Conference, \$2,000 to be applied within their own bounds, and the remainder placed under the direction of the Board, for paying the expenses of such men as may be transferred by the Bishops to that Conference. \$8,000 were appropriated to Oregon, \$3,000 to be applied to the work at home, and \$5,000 placed at the disposition of the Board to meet the expenses of transfers to that Conference.

The Committee resolved to place at the discretion of the Board, and the Bishop having charge of Foreign Missions, for promoting the work in France according to the previous action of the Board and the letter of the Corresponding Secretary to Dr. C. Cook, dated in August, \$2,500.

The Corresponding Secretary then reported to the General Missionary Committee a voluminous correspondence concerning a mission to Bulgaria, and among the Greeks in Constantinople and vicinity, and also called their attention to opening a mission in India; whereupon it was resolved that a fund be created and placed at the discretion of the Board, and the Bishop having charge of Foreign Missions, for the commencement of a mission in Bulgaria, to the amount of \$5,000.

*India*.—Resolved, that a fund be created and placed at the discretion of the Board and Bishop for commencing a mission in India to the amount of \$7,500.

Special appropriations were made to *Sweden* and *Norway*, at the disposal of the Board and Bishop having the charge, \$750.

Contingent, at the discretion of the Board and Bishop for German Mission in California, \$2,000.

For second preacher on Warren Mission, Missouri District, Illinois Conference, German work, \$75.

It was ordered that the Michigan Conference be allowed a credit on the Treasurer's books to meet a certain deficiency of \$566 42.

There was appropriated toward the expenses of the Mission Rooms the amount of \$308 58.

Making a total of \$210,000.

These appropriations met with the concurrence of the Board of Managers, and all the Bishops in attendance. Adjourned.

J. P. DURBIN, Secretary.

#### APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1854.

The General Missionary Committee met at the Mission Rooms, New-York, at nine o'clock A. M., November 3, 1853. Present, of the *General Missionary Committee*.—N. Bangs, John F. Wright, G. Gary, G. Webber, H. W. Reed, W. H. Collins, C. J. Houts.

*Committee of the Board*.—F. Godine, H. Bangs, W. Truslow, P. E. Coon, F. Hall, E. L. Fancher.

Bishops Waugh, Janes, and Simpson present.

On motion, N. Bangs was elected Chairman, and John P. Durbin Secretary. Opening religious services by Brother G. Gary.

The joint committee proceeded to consider, first, the appropriations necessary to sustain our Foreign Missions.

*Africa*.—It was resolved that the sums in detail be appropriated as set forth in an official report of the Liberia Annual Conference made in January, 1853, and signed by L. Scott, Bishop presiding, and J. S. Payne, Secretary, amounting, in all the items, to \$23,957.

It was agreed to add, for finishing the Church at Cape Palmas, by the advice of Bishop Scott and action of the Board, \$3,000; and for the institution of a Day and Boarding School at Cape Palmas, \$2,000. It was also resolved to place at the discretion of the Board, for the rebuilding of the missionary house at Monrovia, the sum of \$4,000. Total for Liberia Mission, \$32,957.

*China*.—Appropriated for the support of the China Mission, \$12,000.

Appropriated for *Foreign German Mission*, \$10,000.

Placed at the disposition of the Board to aid the work under the care of the Methodist Conference in *France*, \$5,000.

Appropriated for the support of Missions in *Norway*, *Sweden*, and vicinity, \$2,000.

*South America*.—Appropriated toward the salary of the missionary, if necessary to be drawn for, the sum of \$1,000. A contingent fund was allowed for re-opening the Mission at Monte Video to the amount of \$2,000.

For commencing a Mission in *India*, \$7,500.

Contingent for Mission in *Bulgaria*, \$5,000.

*German Domestic Missions*, \$46,850.

*Foreign population*, other than German, \$12,850.

Contingent for the Chinese in California, \$2,000.

*Indian Missions*, \$13,440.

*Domestic Missions* in the several Annual Conferences, including expenses of transfers to California and estimated support for six months, \$15,000; and a similar appropriation to Oregon of \$11,000; and also a Mission to New-Mexico of \$7,500.

Contingent Expenses of the Office, \$353.

Making a grand total of \$260,000.

The foregoing appropriations were concurred in by the Board of Managers and three of the bishops, namely: Waugh, Janes, and Simpson.

John F. Wright presented a communication, addressed to the committee, from Dr. C. Elliott, asking to have action in favor of influencing Congress to use its influence to obtain liberty for American citizens to enjoy their religious liberty in Italy and in other countries, and in favor of sending a missionary to Rome. Whereupon it was resolved that the Corresponding Secretary be charged with expressing to Dr. Elliott, in behalf of the committee:

1. That we heartily approve of using influence with the government to induce it to use its best endeavors to procure such liberty as desired above, but doubt the expediency of this committee taking action on that subject.

2. That we are ready to institute a mission to Rome so soon as it is practicable, and to set forth the reasons why the committee do not now deem it to be practicable.

Our Secretary made the communication ordered by the committee to Dr. Elliott, assigning many reasons why we could not at this time establish a mission at Rome, and we presume those reasons were entirely satisfactory. Adjourned.

J. P. DURBIN, Secretary.

#### APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1855.

The General Missionary Committee, in conjunction with a committee of the same number from the Board, met in the Mission Rooms, New-York, November 15, 1854, at 9 o'clock A. M. Present, of the

*General Missionary Committee*—N. Bangs, J. F. Wright, H. W. Reed, C. J. Houts, G. Gary, W. H. Collins, and G. Webber.

*Committee of the Board*.—H. Bangs, W. Truslow, Dr. Phelps, P. E. Coon, F. Hall, and E. L. Fancher.

On motion of Brother Wright, Dr. Bangs was elected Chairman, and Dr. Durbin Secretary.

Reading of the Scriptures and prayer by Bishop Waugh.

Bishops present, Waugh, Janes, Scott, and Simpson.

The joint-committee first considered the necessities, and made appropriations for Foreign Missions.

Appropriated in the aggregate, embracing money items detailed in our Minutes, for *Africa*, \$36,407.

Appropriated for the *China Mission*, \$10,000.

Appropriated for *Germany*, \$10,000.

Appropriated for *Norwegian* and *Swedish* Missions, \$2,000.

Appropriated for the support of Wesleyan Missions in *France*, \$5,000.

*South America*.—For Buenos Ayres, \$2,000; for service in the New Mexican Mission and Extension, \$3,900.



Appropriated for *Domestic German Missions*, including \$2,000 contingent for establishing a new Mission in California, \$46,700.

*Foreign populations* other than German, \$17,850.

Appropriated to *Indian Missions*, \$16,340.

Appropriated to *Domestic Missions*, English population, \$100,145.

Appropriated for a Mission in *India*, \$7,500.

Appropriated for incidental Expenses for Office, &c., \$3,058.

Making a grand total of \$260,000.

These appropriations were concurred in by the Board of Managers with great unanimity, and also by all the bishops present, Waugh, Janes, Scott, and Simpson.

We say, in closing our labors at this session, "The General Missionary Committee, acting with the Committee from the Board, have carefully reviewed our Missionary work, aided by the counsels of Bishops Waugh, Janes, Scott, and Simpson, and letters from the other superintendents, and beg leave to report from the joint committee the following appropriations. The whole amount which may be drawn, for the service of all our Missions, Foreign and Domestic, during the year 1855, and for special purposes as set forth in the report in detail herewith submitted, \$260,000."

At this session of the committee the following was unanimously adopted, namely:

*Whereas*, the work of appropriating missionary funds judiciously is often much embarrassed by ministers and people taking incipient steps, and creating expectations in small settlements of American or foreign population, which it is injurious to disappoint; therefore, *Resolved* by this joint committee, That we respectfully advise our brethren, in the ministry and laity, to refrain from any measures that will create any such expectations, but defer all action that will in any way commit the authorities of the Church, until the meetings of the Missionary Committees of the Annual Conferences.

On motion adjourned.

J. P. DURBIN, *Secretary*.

#### APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1856.

The General Missionary Committee, and the Committee in behalf of the Board, met in the Mission Rooms, New-York, at half past nine o'clock A. M., November 7, 1855.

Present of the *General Missionary Committee*, N. Bangs, George Webber, John F. Wright, Henry W. Reed, W. H. Collins, J. C. Houts, and G. Baker.

Brother Baker was appointed since our last meeting to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Brother Gary.

Of the *Committee of the Board*, were present, J. S. Porter, J. Floy, H. M. Forrester, H. Moore, W. B. Skidmore, and H. Bangs.

J. P. Durbin, Corresponding Secretary, and Thomas Carlton, Treasurer, present, and Bishops Scott, Baker, and Ames; Bishops Janes and Waugh afterward arrived.

On motion, Dr. N. Bangs was appointed Chairman and Dr. Durbin Secretary.

Religious services by Bishop Scott.

Upon taking the chair, Dr. Bangs very appropriately alluded to the death of Rev. George Gary, a member of the General Missionary Committee, who died since our last meeting.

On motion of J. F. Wright, Dr. Bangs was requested to prepare and report to this joint committee a suitable minute for entrance on their records, in relation to the death of our beloved Brother Gary.

The committee then proceeded to make appropriations for Foreign Missions.

*Africa.*—After providing for the salaries of the missionaries, the committee adopted the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That we require that each charge in Liberia shall raise something toward the support of its pastor as a part of his salary, and that the conference in their estimates be required to have respect to the ability of the local Church, or charge, which is to be served, and aim in the estimates to enable each Church to support its own pastor for the time being, and report the same to the Board of Managers in New-York.

The entire appropriations for Liberia embraced eighteen items, amounting to \$31,500.

*China Mission*, \$8,500.

*Foreign German work*, regular service, \$10,000; contingent to pay the expenses of Brother Jacoby's return to the United States, \$500.

Appropriated to *France*, payable quarterly, \$5,000.

Appropriated to Norway for regular service, \$1,000; appropriated for extension of the work at the discretion of the Board and Bishops for Norway or Sweden, \$1,000; appropriated to Sweden for Brother Larsen, \$400.

*South America.*—Contingent for support of missionary at Buenos Ayres, \$1,250; appropriated for an assistant in view of extending the work into the country, \$1,000; appropriated toward sending a teacher and instituting a school under the patronage of the mission at Buenos Ayres, \$500; appropriated for instituting a mission in the Northern portion of South America, \$3,000; appropriated to New Mexico for concluding the mission, \$1,250; appropriated to Central America for instituting a mission, \$1,500.

*India.*—Appropriated for instituting a mission, \$7,500.

*Turkey.*—Appropriated for commencing a mission in Turkey, \$5,000.

*German Domestic Missions.*—Appropriated to the New-York Conference, \$12,000; appropriated to the Cincinnati Conference, \$11,000; appropriated to the Southeast Indiana Conference, \$5,000; appropriated to the Illinois Conference, \$7,500; appropriated to the Rock River Conference, \$9,000; appropriated to the California Conference, \$4,000; making a total of \$48,500.

In connection with these appropriations, the joint committee adopted the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That in case of the division of any of the Annual Conferences, or of the Missionary work under their care, the members of the present Missionary Committee, who may be at the next General Conference, be, and are hereby, constituted a committee to divide the general appropriations made to such conferences according to equity, in their best judgment.

Appropriated to foreign populations other than German, total \$15,975.

Appropriated to *Indian Missions*, \$13,250.

The aggregate amount appropriated to Domestic Missions in the English work, \$97,150.

Making a total to all Domestic Missions of \$174,875.

This amount for Domestic Missions in the English work includes appropriations for transfers to California and Oregon, as well as to be used within the bounds of those conferences. And also an appropriation of \$6,000 to the territories west of Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas Conferences. And in taking this action, the committee say, *if a new conference* is organized in these territories, the amount shall be drawn for by the Mission Committee and presiding Bishop of said conference. If a new conference be not formed, the members of the General Missionary Committee present at the seat of the next General Conference shall apportion the amount to the Iowa and the Missouri Conferences respectively.

Of the seven thousand dollars appropriated to the Wisconsin Conference, the committee recommended, in case of a division at the General Conference, that Minnesota have *four thousand* of the amount.

Of the \$3,500 appropriated to Iowa Conference, the committee recommend, in case of a division at the General Conference, that the Territory of Upper Iowa receive \$2,000, and Iowa \$1,500.

One thousand dollars was appropriated contingently at the discretion of the New-York Conference, at its next session, for a mission to the Jews in New-York. The appropriations were divided as follows, namely: Domestic Missions, \$174,875; Foreign Missions, \$78,900; add contingent under the constitution, \$5,000; expenses of administration, \$6,225; making a grand total of \$265,000.

These appropriations were concurred in by the Board of Managers and all the Bishops present: Bishops Waugh, Janes, Scott, Baker, and Ames.

The following resolution was adopted:

*"Resolved*, That we refer to the Bishops having the charge severally of our Foreign Missions the number of missionaries to be employed, they and the Board having strict respect to the specific appropriation to each of said missions."

Rev. Dr. Bangs read his report on the death of G. Gary, which was adopted by the committee, and ordered to be entered on the minutes as follows:

REV. G. GARY. Whereas, it hath pleased Almighty God to receive to himself our late brother, the Rev. George Gary, who has been a laborer in his vineyard for the space of 46 years or more, several of which were spent in the service of this society as a superintendent of our mission in the Oregon Territory, and more recently, and at the time of his death, as a member of the General Missionary Committee. And whereas our departed brother hath with "meekness of wisdom" adorned, both in his private and public life, "the doctrine of God our Saviour," and hath by his labor of love all along the years of his ministerial course, commended himself to the highest respect and esteem of the friends of our Lord Jesus Christ; therefore, *Resolved*, That while with the Church at large we bow with reverence under the bereaving stroke which hath removed

so eminent and valuable a laborer to his eternal reward; we also adore the God of all grace for the bestowment of so bright a light in his Church, and so devoted a friend to the missionary cause.

*Resolved*, That we thankfully adore the grace of God, which gave his beloved rest, throughout the severe and protracted illness by which he was finally removed.

*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with the surviving widow, and other members of the family, and tender them our affectionate condolence in this bereaving event.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be forwarded to the widow and family of the deceased, and that a copy also be furnished to our several Church papers for publication.

The following was also adopted:

*Resolved*, That we recommend the Board to take measures to cause the constitution to be so amended as to render it clear that this General Committee and Board may grant aid to other Methodist bodies in carrying on their missions, and that such appropriations shall in effect constitute such missions foreign missions in the view of the constitution.

Adjourned.

JOHN F. WRIGHT,  
HENRY W. REED,  
W. H. COLLINS,  
G. BAKER,  
C. J. HOUTS.

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## S.\*

### REPORT ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

THE Committee on the Bible Cause, in making their report to this body, are anxious to bring very prominently to your notice the American Bible Society. This noble institution, recognized in the Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as the great agency for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, we are happy to be able to say, is still successfully prosecuting its work, and richly deserves the confidence and support of the Church and the public. During the last four years its career has been one of progress, and, we believe, of increasing usefulness. Each year, except one, a year of general pecuniary embarrassment, it has steadily increased in its receipts and in its issues. Four years ago the receipts of the society, from donations, legacies, and sales, amounted to \$308,144 81; the last year's receipts, from all sources, were \$393,167 25. In 1852 the report of the society stated its issues at 666,015 volumes; the present year they report 668,225. But it should be remembered that for two years preceding, the auxiliary societies had drawn very largely on the Parent Depository for books, had thereby become very

\* For Report of the General Missionary Committee, see *Appendix S*, page 259.



heavily in debt to the treasury of the Parent Society; and during the past year, instead of ordering books, they have been reducing their indebtedness. This has naturally led to an augmentation in the receipts of the Parent Society, and a diminution in its issues. We are now happy to learn that the Parent Society has thereby been enabled to relieve itself of embarrassments contracted to meet the demands of the few preceding years, when its issues were unusually large; and being now relieved of all embarrassment by debt, it is prepared to go much more extensively into the manufacture and distribution of books than ever before.

Thus prepared, and moved by a consideration of the wants of the country, the Board of Managers, we learn from the doings at the late anniversary, have made arrangements to call the attention of the auxiliary societies to a complete reexploration and re-supply of the entire country. They are satisfied that there is room for a large amount of distribution in the country, many, very many, families and individuals having no Bible. It is high time that this work should be resumed among us. But to accomplish it it is necessary that auxiliary societies, Bible committees, and pastors and ministers generally, should take hold of the work with energy and zeal. It is also highly important that all ministers should coöperate with the auxiliary societies. We suggest that the ministers of our own Church may aid materially this great work by identifying themselves with the auxiliary societies, by coöperating with them, and as far as possible strengthening and encouraging them. Much of the prosperity of the Parent Society, and the success of its benevolent aims, depend on their so doing.

While the main object of the American Bible Society is to supply our own country with the Holy Scriptures, it is also devoting considerable attention to foreign nations. This Conference is well aware that unexpected openings have occurred in lands hitherto inaccessible to the Bible. In China and Turkey remarkable events have occurred to open the way for Bible distribution; and of late Italy, and even Spain, have become accessible. Owing to its heavy indebtedness, the Board has not done as much as was desirable for foreign lands the past year, but it expects very largely to increase its contributions to this object hereafter. In regard to appropriations to meet the wants of our Church, we are able to report very satisfactorily. We believe no application from our Church, that has come within the principles of its constitution, has been disregarded by the Board of Managers; and it has shown a gratifying liberality in regard to our Missionary Society for the foreign work, as well as for the Sunday-school and Tract Society, and to individual ministers and others, for private, benevolent distribution.

We are happy to learn that the Society is taking great pains to publish the Scriptures in different languages, of the most correct translations. It publishes the Bible, or parts of the Bible, in about ten of the principal modern languages, besides portions in several Indian dialects of this country, and in the Grebo dialect in Africa. Besides these, it is prepared to furnish imported copies in many more, besides printing the entire Bible in embossed letters for the use of the blind. To all these translations our Church has access, on the terms and conditions of the Society.

We think the American Bible Society entitled to our gratitude, for the pains it has taken to give us a pure and perfect version of the English Bible. Rejecting all attempts at a new translation, which they deem eminently unwise, as both uncalled for and hazardous to the best interests of Bible truth, they have taken great pains to give us a perfect copy of our unrivaled and inimitable English Bible. With this we should not only be fully satisfied, but more, it calls for our grateful acknowledgment.

Impressed with these views, your committee would beg leave respectfully to present, for adoption, the following resolutions :

1. That this General Conference cherishes the most cordial and undiminished confidence in the American Bible Society, and hereby recommends to the ministers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church to coöperate with it, and exert themselves to carry out its noble and benevolent designs.

2. That we highly approve of the intention and effort of the Managers to secure a systematic and general, as well as thorough, re-exploration and re-supply of the entire country, and that we recommend our ministers and members everywhere to coöperate in this work, and help to carry the plan into effect in their several fields of labor.

3. That inasmuch as the successful carrying out of the designs of the American Bible Society depends on the efficiency of its auxiliaries, we recommend all under our charge to coöperate with those auxiliaries, to encourage, strengthen, and assist them.

4. That in declining all attempts or movement toward a new translation of the Bible, the Society is entitled to our warmest thanks, and for its pains to furnish an entirely pure and correct edition of the Bible in our commonly received English version.

5. In view of the importance of this whole subject, we hereby recommend to each minister in the connection to preach at least once a year on this subject, and generally at the time when he makes his annual collection for the Bible cause.

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## T.

### REPORT OF THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE OF THE NORTHERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

THE Publishing Committee of the Northern Christian Advocate having attended to their duties in making personal and minute examination of the office, including the books of accounts, which they audited, beg leave to make the following report to the General Conference :

That the Northern Christian Advocate, in regard to its subscription list and finances, is in a very flattering condition, proving the editor and printer, who have the daily management of its affairs, to have been competent and successful.

The proof of this general statement will be found in the following particulars :

1. The subscription list consists now of nearly fifteen thousand paying subscribers, against about twelve thousand at the time of the last session of your body.

2. The office is entirely out of debt; and there is a surplus of \$6,845 32 on deposit, against \$1,931 42 four years ago. There is also due from agents the sum of \$2,224, at the date of this report. There is, on the other hand, due to our subscribers about \$7,000. At the close of the year, therefore, the office will have, as nearly as can now be foreseen, about \$2,000, after all expenses of repairs and enlargement are reckoned in, as a clear profit.

3. The cost of the above-mentioned enlargement, which was called for by the necessities of the work, has been \$1,610 98.

4. The cost of repairs for the four years has been \$727 91.

We find the building, lot, and fixtures, to be worth about \$10,000. Everything seems to be in good repair. The type is about one year old; and it will be necessary to purchase a new dress for the paper, and, perhaps, change all the type of the office at the close of the present year.

As the building up of a sound and prosperous establishment, with the intention of gradually enlarging to meet the increasing demands made upon the paper by the patronizing conferences, would seem to be the policy of said conferences, the office has been conducted under the idea of *low prices and extensive circulation*, that we may scatter intelligence rather than hoard money; and we are, therefore, able to report, in conclusion,

That the Northern Christian Advocate is safe in its finances, offering no occasion of anxiety to the Church at large, or to your reverend body; and is coöperating more and more efficiently with the preachers and people of this region of country, in spreading the knowledge of a perfect salvation to the ends of the world. Respectfully submitted,

B. F. TEFT,  
F. REED,  
E. B. TENNY,  
A. J. PHELPS,  
J. M'EWEN.

May 1, 1856.

P. S. The tardiness of this report is owing to the fact, that these reports are customarily made up to the first of May inclusive, after which the work of collecting the data is performed, from which data the chairman makes out his returns.

B. T. TEFT.

## U.

## REPORT ON THE EDUCATION OF COLORED YOUTH.

The committee to whom were referred certain papers relating to the "Education of Colored Youth," have carefully considered the subject, and respectfully submit the following report:

## HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT.

For many years the unhappy condition of the colored people of this country has excited the sympathy of the benevolent; and the inquiry has been anxiously revolved, What can be done for the improvement of that condition? In the fall of 1853, the attention of the Cincinnati Conference was directed to this subject; and a committee of seven members was appointed to inquire and report some plan of operations at the next session. This committee reported to the Conference in 1854, urging the immediate adoption of measures for encouraging the education of colored youth, so as to fit them for any position or pursuit in life to which God in his providence might call them. This report was adopted by the Conference, and an agent was appointed to carry into effect the objects contemplated. This agent, the Rev. John F. Wright, in addition to his ordinary duties as presiding elder of East Cincinnati District, labored quite extensively, by correspondence and otherwise, in the work of the agency. He succeeded in awakening a lively interest on the subject, and in arousing the attention and exciting the hopes of the colored people themselves, who began to see opening out before them the prospect of respectability and usefulness. The Ohio Conference entered with great cordiality into the project; and, at its session in 1855, resolved to coöperate with the Cincinnati Conference, and such other conferences as chose to engage in the enterprise, in establishing "a literary institution of a high order for the education of colored youth, male and female." A committee was also appointed, headed by the venerable Dr. Young, to coöperate with the committees from the other conferences in carrying into effect the objects contemplated. The agent of the Cincinnati Conference, in person and by letter, communicated with the three western conferences of the African Methodist Episcopal Church upon the subject; and they entered heartily into the measure. He has also visited the General Conference of that Church, which is now in session in Cincinnati; and has received assurance of the most cordial coöperation. This body of Christians has great influence with the colored people of this country; and the ministers, and many of the leading members of that Church, have for some years manifested a laudable zeal for the literary as well as religious culture of their people.

## LOCATION OF THE INSTITUTION.

At the last session of the Cincinnati Conference definite action was taken, the agent was re-appointed with enlarged powers, an able com-



mittee of four brethren was associated with him ; and they were authorized to raise funds, and procure a suitable site and buildings for an institution of learning. Providentially, as it seemed, just at the opportune moment, a most beautiful location, with appropriate buildings, furniture, &c., was offered to them upon terms as favorable as could reasonably be desired. It is known as the "Tawawa or Xenia Springs" property ; and is situated in Greene county, Ohio, some three and a half miles northeasterly from the town of Xenia, in a community where such an institution will be cherished, and where it will enjoy every possible facility for meeting the wants which have called it into being. It embraces fifty-four acres of land, on which there is a large and beautiful edifice, containing about two hundred rooms, which are well adapted to the purposes of a boarding-house, school and class-room, chapel, &c.; also several cottages equally well adapted to the use of private families—the furniture for both the main edifice and the cottages being included in the purchase. There are several mineral springs on the premises ; and the whole had been fitted up for a fashionable watering-place, at a cost of over forty thousand dollars. This property was offered to the committee for thirteen thousand five hundred dollars. The offer was accepted ; and the committee now look to this General Conference for its approval, which will materially aid them in meeting the pecuniary responsibilities of the enterprise, and in carrying into effect the great objects contemplated.

#### THE OBJECTS CONTEMPLATED.

As already intimated, the great object had in view is *the elevation of the entire colored race*, by means of literary, social, and religious culture. And in order to accomplish this object, it is proposed to encourage and assist them in their efforts at self-improvement, by means of Sabbath and week-day schools, and also by means of at least one institution of learning of a high grade, which the colored people may regard as their own ; and where they may feel that they have no superiors, unless superior merit makes them such. The character and objects of this institution are thus explained by the agent of the Cincinnati Conference : "A leading feature will be to educate and train colored persons, male and female, for professional teachers, that they may be thoroughly qualified to go forth wherever their services are needed, and impart to their own race a good Christian education. It is to be open to both sexes, and persons entering may pursue and accomplish a partial or thorough collegiate course, as they may choose ; and, in its maturity, we design that it shall include and furnish all that is common to the best universities of the country."

#### PRESENT STATE OF THE ENTERPRISE.

It has been stated already, that a most desirable location and buildings have been procured, which will, in a short time, be ready for occupancy. The project is regarded with great favor by all the prominent friends of the colored race, so far as their views have been ascertained ; and the committee are informed, upon reliable authority, that the colored people

themselves, especially in the neighborhood where the institution is located, are delighted with the enterprise. It has also attracted the attention of some wealthy gentlemen in the south, who have slaves whom they wish to emancipate and educate; and two such slaves have been emancipated already, and are now in Xenia awaiting the opening of the school. It will, probably, be necessary to place the institution under the superintendence of a white principal for the present; but the design is to make it emphatically *the colored people's college*.

In conclusion, your committee respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved* That, in the judgment of this General Conference, the religious education of the people of color in our land, will tend most effectually and speedily, under God, to their elevation in this country, and to prepare the way for the restoration of the benighted millions of down-trodden Africa, to all the blessings of civilization, science, and religion.

2. *Resolved*, That we look upon the proposed plan for the education of the colored youth of our land as of God, and as promising great good to the people of color among us, and untold blessings to the land of their ancestors; and we do most earnestly recommend this noble work to the sympathy, the prayers, and the generous benefactions of all who desire the elevation of the entire family of man.

3. *Resolved*, That we bespeak for the agents of this enterprise a cordial reception on the part of all Christians and philanthropists, hoping that they may be successful, not only in awakening sympathy and enlisting prayers, but also in gathering funds to pay for the property purchased, and to afford a liberal endowment of the institution, so as to place it on an equal footing with the best institutions of learning in our country.

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## V.

### REPORT ON THE SMITH ARNOLD FUND.

THE Committee to whom a memorial from the New-York East Conference, in relation to the "Smith Arnold Fund," was referred, beg leave respectfully to report that, from the memorial, and the communications made to them,

It appears that, about twenty-five years ago, a sum of money was collected within the bounds of the New-York Conference, and by said Conference the money was ordered to be invested, and the proceeds appropriated to the use and benefit of Rev. Smith Arnold and his wife, during their lives.

It appears, also, that the proceeds of the said fund were regularly paid to the said Arnold and his wife, agreeably to the order stated above.

It further appears that, after the decease of the aforesaid beneficiaries, the said Conference, at its session in June, 1840, ordered that the proceeds of the said fund should be appropriated to the use and benefit of Rev. N. W. Thomas and his wife, during their lives; and the said proceeds were appropriated in conformity with this order, until the year 1848, when the New-York East Conference was organized by the division of the New-York Conference, and as the residence of the said Thomas was within the bounds of the New-York East Conference, he then became, and is now, a member thereof.

It appears, also, that the New-York Conference, prior to the division above-named, had accumulated certain other funds for various benevolent objects, and that, subsequent to the organization of the New-York East Conference, an equal division of these funds was made between the two bodies, with the exception of the particular fund which is the subject of the present memorial, and which remains in the possession of the New-York Conference, the proceeds having been administered by said Conference for the benefit of parties other than the said N. W. Thomas and his wife.

From the foregoing facts the committee are of opinion that the General Conference has no jurisdiction over the question submitted in the memorial from the New-York East Conference. Nevertheless, in view of the resolution adopted by the New-York Conference, at its session in 1840, and of the expectation thereby created, we recommend the New-York Conference so to administer the proceeds of the fund in question that they may in future inure to the benefit of the said N. W. Thomas and his wife during their lives, provided they shall remain members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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## X.

### REPORT OF THE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE OF THE PITTSBURGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

THE Publishing Committee of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate would present the following report:

At the commencement of the four years just closing the paper was seriously embarrassed in its fiscal concerns, so that after appropriating the amount ordered by the General Conference of 1852, to the payment of old and long-standing claims against the paper, it was found that this did not, by a considerable amount, even pay the debts of the paper up to the 1st January, 1852, after including the cash received from subscribers, in advance, for their papers for the current year. It will be seen from the statement that the paper had to be carried on principally on credit for the year.

Notwithstanding, we were necessitated to renew the type during the

early part of the second year. There was a considerable improvement in the condition of the paper each year, so that, as will be seen from the exhibit which follows, we shall have sufficient means to carry us on until August, or perhaps September, without incurring any debt, excepting the balances due to subscribers.

The following presents the present condition of the paper :

## ASSETS.

Office Furniture, including Type, &c.....	\$516 50	
Due from Sundries .....	790 21	
Bills Receivable .....	1,735 00	
Cash on Deposit.....	1,792 00	
		<u>\$4,833 71</u>

## LIABILITIES.

Due to Sundries.....	\$1,225 34	
Bills Payable .....	1,466 92	2,692 26
		<u>\$2,141 45</u>

Balance in favor of Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.....

It is to us truly gratifying that we are able to show such a favorable improvement in the financial condition of the paper. We have now nearly 8,000 subscribers, and it is hoped that in the course of one or two years more the paper will be able to liquidate every claim by the commencement of the year, having on hand the subscription price of the whole year to come.

We may say that, during the existence of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, it has never been in so prosperous a condition.

All which is respectfully submitted.

I. N. BAIRD,  
J. C. PERSHING,  
WM. A. DAVIDSON,  
*Publishing Committee.*

May, 1856.

## Y.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTERED FUND.

*To the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America :*

DEAR FATHERS AND BRETHREN : The Trustees of the Chartered Fund of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America respectfully submit the following report :

The amount of invested funds, as per report, made to the General Conference in 1852, was \$41,635 29.



The dividends to each Annual Conference, since that time, have been as follows :

1853 to 36 Conferences, each	\$76 00	Total,	. . .	\$2,736 00
1854 to 35	" " 35 00	Total,	. . .	1,225 00
1855 to 36	" " 36 00	Total,	. . .	1,332 00
1856 to 38	" " 38 00	Total,	. . .	1,140 00

A division of the assets of the Chartered Fund, under a decree of the Supreme Court of the United States, was made in January, 1854, in which the Methodist Episcopal Church was made owner of a proportion of the assets, equal to about 29 per cent., which ratio was based upon the number of preachers, and was as 4,632 is to 1,329.

The net valuation of the assets, at the time of settlement,	
was,	. . . . . \$38,324 31
Of which amount was paid to Commissioners of Church,	
South,	. . . . . 17,051 05

Leaving balance of reliable assets, . . . \$21,273 26

The Board of Trustees regret to state that the late Treasurer, Brother J. J. Boswell, appropriated to his own use about \$6,000 of the funds of this corporation, and being unfortunate in his business, and being unable to pay over the amount to the Treasury, and with a desire to save the fund from loss, assigned to the Board of Trustees certain book debts, notes, &c., which, if realized, will be ample to pay the deficiency.

Brother Boswell made, at the same time, a general assignment for the benefit of his creditors. The assignees have resisted payment of the assignment made to the Chartered Fund. A suit has been instituted by the Board of Trustees against the assignees, and judgment obtained in the court below. The parties have carried the case to the Supreme Court. The Trustees have been in daily expectation of receiving the decree of said court, affirming the previous decision. They have no time to wait longer, and this is their apology for detaining the report to so late a day of the session of the General Conference.

The amount of this deficiency, about \$6,000, or any portion of it, when collected, is to be divided with the Commissioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, *pro ratio*, as the former division, say 4,632 is to 1,329.

During the past four years Brothers J. J. Boswell and Solomon Townsend have resigned as trustees, and the vacancies have been filled by the election of Brothers Colson Hieskill and T. K. Collins, which elections the Board ask the General Conference to confirm.

The amount of invested funds, as per statement of Treasurer, on 1st January, 1856, is \$22,182 50.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board,  
W. P. HACKER, *Secretary*.

## Z.

### REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHURCH SUIT IN NEW-YORK.

The undersigned, surviving members of the commission appointed by the General Conference of 1852, "with full powers to act," in reference to the claims preferred by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, upon certain property of the Methodist Book Concern in New-York, would respectfully report,

That under the friendly advice of the Hon. Judge M'Lean, after a careful examination of all the facts, and in full view of their responsibilities, they, at as early a time as practicable, effected an amicable adjustment of all the matters referred to them.

The decree of the court, given December 8th, 1853, entered on motion of both parties, contains the particulars of the adjustment.

It was agreed to pay the South \$191,000 in cash, together with the Richmond, Charleston, and Nashville printing establishments, and all the debts on the books and periodicals as per schedule submitted, due the New-York Book Concern, from individuals residing within the geographical limits of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The sum of \$70,000 was to be given as follows: \$10,000 on the filing of the decree, \$40,000 on the fifth day of January following, and the remaining \$20,000 on the first of March succeeding. The residue of the \$191,000, amounting to the sum of \$121,000, was to be paid as follows: \$16,000 on the first of February, 1855; \$15,000 on the first February, 1856; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1857; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1858; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1859; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1860; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1861; \$15,000 on the first of February, 1862. We, the defendants, were to pay the interest every year on all deferred payments, at the rate of seven per cent., and at the same rate on the payments to be made on the fifth day of March. We were also to pay the taxable costs of the suit, within ninety days from the filing of this decree.

Your committee beg to assure the General Conference, that while this arrangement was effected in full view of the legal decisions already made, and the moral certainty of those destined to follow, they were also prompted by the strictest economy, upon the part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a very considerable sum being saved to the Book Concern.

GEORGE PECK,  
THOMAS CARLTON,  
JOHN S. PORTER.

## AA.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHURCH EXTENSION.

THE committee to whom the memorial on Church Extension was referred, beg leave to report that they have had the subject under consideration; and while they deeply feel the importance of securing early attention to the purchase of lots for churches and parsonages, especially in the new districts of country, and in towns and villages that are springing up in almost every part of our widely-extended country, yet we cannot think it advisable, at this time, for the General Conference either to organize a society for the purpose, or adopt any one thus organized. Believing, as we do, that the desired end would not be the most successfully arrived at by any one local society, or the employment of agents to go through the country at large, therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That we appreciate and commend the zeal of our brethren at Chicago; yet we do not think it practicable, at this time, to organize such a society as they desire.

2. *Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend the Annual Conferences, as having this work more immediately under their supervision and control, to adopt such measures as are best calculated, according to their circumstances and necessities, and by all prudential measures, to secure the desired end.

## BB.

## REPORT ON BOUNDARIES.

## PART III.—TEMPORAL ECONOMY.

CHAP. I.—*Of the Boundaries of the Annual Conferences.*

1. THE NEW-YORK CONFERENCE shall consist of the territory now included in the New-York, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Prattsville, Monticello, and Rhinebeck Districts, including East Chatham.

2. THE NEW-YORK EAST CONFERENCE shall consist of the East New-York, the New-Haven, the Hartford, and the Long Island Districts, including in the city of New-York all those charges lying east of a line running through the Third Avenue, Bowery, Chatham-street, and Broadway.

3. THE PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Connecticut lying east of the Connecticut River, all the State of Rhode Island, with Millville and Blackstone Stations in Massachusetts, and also that part of the State of Massachusetts lying southeast of a line drawn from the northeast corner of the State of Rhode Island to the mouth of

Neponset River, which line shall so run as to leave Walpole Station and Quincy Point within the bounds of the New-England Conference.

4. THE NEW-ENGLAND CONFERENCE shall include all the State of Massachusetts lying east of the Green Mountains, not embraced in the New-Hampshire and Providence Conferences.

5. THE MAINE CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Maine lying west of the Kennebeck River, from its mouth to the Great Bend below Skowhegan, and of a line running from thence north to the State line, (including Skowhegan and Augusta Stations in Maine Conference,) and that part of New-Hampshire lying east of the White Hills, and north of the waters of the Ossipee Lake.

6. THE EAST MAINE CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Maine not included in the Maine Conference.

7. THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE shall include all the State of New-Hampshire not embraced in the Maine Conference, that part of the State of Massachusetts northeast of the Merrimac River, and also that part of the State of Vermont lying east of the top of the Green Mountains. *Provided*, that at the next sessions of the Vermont and New-Hampshire Conferences, the members of the same, or a majority of them, shall agree to the reunion of the two; otherwise, the Vermont Conference shall include, as now, that part of the State of Vermont lying east of the top of the Green Mountains.

8. THE TROY CONFERENCE shall include the Troy, Albany, (embracing Richmondville Station,) Saratoga, Poultney, Burlington, Plattsburgh, and St. Albans Districts.

9. THE BLACK RIVER CONFERENCE shall include, together with Rose Circuit, that part of the State of New-York west of the Troy Conference, not embraced in the East Genesee Conference, as far south as the Erie Canal, and all the Societies on the immediate banks of the Canal, except Utica, Canestota, Montezuma, and Port Byron.

10. THE ONEIDA CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of New-York south of the Black River Conference and east of Cayuga Lake, and north of a line running east from Newfield to Ithaca; from thence following the Catskill turnpike to Greene, and from thence following the same line of road through Masonville to the New-York Conference, including all the charges through which said line passes, excepting Lisle and Whitney's Point Charge; from thence, on the west line of the Troy Conference, to the Erie Canal, including Fort Plain.

11. THE WYOMING CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of New-York not included in the Oneida, East Genesee, and New-York Conferences, including Lisle and Whitney's Point Charge; together with that part of Pennsylvania bounded on the west by the East Genesee, south by the Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Newark Conferences, and east by the Newark and New-York Conferences.

12. THE EAST GENESSEE CONFERENCE shall contain all that part of the State of New-York west of Black River, Oncida, and Wyoming Conferences, and east of Genesee River, including the whole of the city of Rochester, together with so much of the State of Pennsylvania as is included in the Elmira, Troy, and Corning Districts, except Laporte Circuit.



13. THE *GENESEE CONFERENCE* shall include all that part of the State of New-York west of the East Genesee Conference, except so much as is included in the Erie Annual Conference; and also so much of the State of Pennsylvania as is embraced in Olean District.

14. THE *ERIE CONFERENCE* shall be bounded on the north by Lake Erie, on the east by a line commencing at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek, thence up said creek to the village of Gowanda, leaving said village in the Genesee Conference, thence to the Alleghany River, at the mouth of the Tunungwant Creek, thence up said creek eastward to the ridge dividing between the waters of Clarion and Sinnamahoning Creeks, thence south to the head of Mahoning Creek, thence down said creek, exclusive of the Milton Society, but including Putneyville in the Bethlehem Circuit, to the Alleghany River; thence across said river in a north-westerly direction, to the Western Reserve line, including the north part of Butler and Newcastle Circuits, and also including Petersburg; thence west to the Ohio Canal, thence along said canal to Lake Erie, including Akron, and all of Cleveland lying east of the Cuyahoga River.

15. THE *PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE* shall be bounded on the north by the Erie Conference, on the east by a line running along the tops of the Alleghany Mountains to the southern line of the State of Pennsylvania, thence west along the line of the Western Virginia Conference to the Ohio River, thence down said river to the mouth of the Muskingum River, thence up said river, exclusive of the towns of Marietta and Zanesville, to the Tuscarawas River, thence up said river, including the town of Massillon, to the line of the Erie Conference.

16. THE *WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE* shall be bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of the Pennsylvania line, thence along said line to the northeast corner of Ohio county, Virginia, so as to include Wheeling Creek Mission and Triadelphia Circuits; thence the most direct way to Short Creek, so as to include the Short Creek and Liberty Circuits; thence down said creek to the Ohio River, thence down said river to the mouth of Big Sandy River, thence up the Big Sandy River, so as to include the Guyandotte District; on the south and east it shall be bounded by the Baltimore Conference to the Pennsylvania State line, thence westward by said line to the place of beginning.

17. THE *OHIO CONFERENCE* shall commence at the southeast corner of the North Ohio Conference, and thence south, following the course of the Muskingum River to its junction with the Ohio River, including the city of Zanesville and the town of Marietta; thence down the Ohio River to the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek, thence north to the southeast corner of Fayette county, leaving Sinking Spring Circuit, and Bethesda, and Rapid Forge societies in Highland Circuit, west of this line, and Washington Circuit east, except Fairfield, which shall be left west of said line; thence northwest to the western boundary of said county of Fayette, thence in a due north direction to the southern boundary of Delaware Conference, leaving Vienna Circuit west of said line, thence east with southern line of the Delaware Conference in part, and of the North Ohio Conference to the place of beginning.

18. THE *CINCINNATI CONFERENCE* shall commence at the mouth of the Ohio Brush Creek, and shall be bounded on the south by the Ohio

River, and on the west by the Indiana State line to the southern bounds of the Delaware Conference, at the southwest corner of Dark County; thence eastwardly along said line, so as to exclude the Sydney and Delaware Districts of the Delaware Conference, to the boundary of the Ohio Conference at its junction with the southern line of the Delaware Conference; thence in a southeasterly direction with said western line of the Ohio Conference to the place of beginning.

19. THE KENTUCKY CONFERENCE shall include the State of Kentucky, excepting so much of said state as is included in the Western Virginia Conference.

20. THE NORTH OHIO CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by the north line of the State of Ohio, east by the Erie and Pittsburgh Conferences, on the south by the Ohio Conference, and on the west by the Delaware Conference.

21. THE DELAWARE CONFERENCE shall be bounded by a line commencing at the northwest corner of the State of Ohio, thence east by the north line of the state to a point north of the mouth of Sandusky River, thence south to the mouth of Sandusky River, excluding Port Clinton Circuit, thence up said Sandusky River to Upper Sandusky, excluding Tiffin City, and including Fremont and Upper Sandusky, thence along the Ohio and Indiana Railroad to Crestline, including Bucyrus Station and Crestline, thence along the Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati Railroad to the north line of the Ohio Conference, including Cardington village, Waldo, and Westfield, and Galena Circuits; thence west along the north line of the Ohio and Cincinnati Conferences to the west line of the state, thence north along the west line of the state to the place of beginning.

22. THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Michigan lying west of the principal meridian lines, and the Indian Missions, in the lower peninsula, shall be connected with Michigan Conference.

23. THE DETROIT CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Michigan lying east of the principal meridian line, and the upper peninsula shall be connected with the Detroit Conference.

24. THE INDIANA CONFERENCE shall be bounded as follows, namely: Beginning at the mouth of Silver Creek on the Ohio River, thence with said creek to the Jeffersonville Railroad, thence by said railroad to Rockford, thence by the east fork of White River to Columbus, thence by the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad to Franklin, thence by the plank road to the Bluffs of White River, thence north by said river to the Donation line of Indianapolis, thence east by said line to Meridian-street, thence north by said street to its intersection with Market-street, thence west by Market-street to the Donation line, thence south by said Donation line to the National Road, thence by the National Road west to the Greencastle State Road, one and a half miles west of Stilesville, thence with said State Road to the town plat of Greencastle, thence due south to Seminary-street, including the second charge in Greencastle, together with lot No. 153; thence due south to the southern border of the college grounds, upon a line equally dividing the college campus and building, thence due west to the Walnut Fork of Eel River, thence down said river to its intersection with the National Road, thence with said road to the

western line of the state, including all the towns on the National Road west of Indianapolis in Indiana Conference, except Terre Haute; thence by the state line to the mouth of the Wabash River, thence by the state line to the mouth of Silver Creek, the place of beginning.

25. THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE shall embrace all of Northwestern Indiana, bounded north by the State and Lake of Michigan, east by the Michigan Road and St. Joseph River, south by Indiana Conference, and west by the State of Illinois, also the city of Terre Haute, with so much of the city of Indianapolis within the Donation as lies north of Market-street and west of Meridian-street, with all towns on the Michigan Road, except Logansport.

26. THE NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE shall include all of Northeastern Indiana, bounded north by Michigan, east by Ohio, including Union City, south by the National Road, and west by the Michigan Road as far north as South Bend, thence down St. Joseph River to the Michigan State line, also the town of Logansport, all towns on the National Road east of Indianapolis, and so much of the city of Indianapolis within the Donation as lies north of Market-street and east of Meridian-street.

27. THE SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA CONFERENCE shall include all of Southeastern Indiana, bounded north by the National Road, east by Ohio, south by the Ohio River, and west by the Indiana Conference; so much of the city of Indianapolis within the Donation as lies south of Market-street and east of Meridian-street, and all the towns and societies on the line between Indiana and Southeastern Indiana Conferences.

28. THE ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE shall embrace all the north part of the State of Illinois north of the north line of the Peoria Conference, so as to include the city of Peru, and excepting that portion of Spring Grove Circuit lying in the State of Illinois.

29. THE PEORIA CONFERENCE shall embrace all that part of the State of Illinois north of the north line of the Illinois Conference, and south of the following line, namely: Beginning on the Mississippi River at Rock Island, thence with the Rock Island and Chicago Railroad to Lasell, thence with the Illinois River to the mouth of the Kankakee River, thence with the Kankakee River to the Indiana State line, so as to embrace Rock Island City, Moline and Port Byron Circuits, and Lasell Station.

30. THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE shall include all that portion of the State of Wisconsin which is not included in the Minnesota and West Wisconsin Conferences.

31. THE WEST WISCONSIN CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Wisconsin which lies south and east of the Minnesota Conference, and west of a line beginning on the south line of the State of Illinois at the southeast corner of Green county, and running north on the Range line to the north line of Town Twenty, (20,) thence west on the north line of Town Twenty to the fourth principal meridian, and thence north on said meridian to the line of Minnesota Conference, with the addition of that portion of Spring Grove Circuit which lies within the State of Illinois.

32. THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE shall include the Minnesota Territory, and that part of the State of Wisconsin which lies north and west of a line beginning at the mouth of Black River, and running up said river to the mouth of Beaver Creek, up said creek to its source, thence by the

dividing ridge between the waters of Black and Trempealeau Rivers to the line between Towns Twenty-three and Twenty-four, thence east along said line to the fourth principal meridian, and thence north on said meridian line to Lake Superior.

33. THE IOWA CONFERENCE shall embrace all that part of the State of Iowa lying south of a line commencing at Davenport, on the Mississippi River, and running on the line of railway to Iowa city, thence up the Iowa River to the corner of Iowa, Benton, Tama, and Poweshiek counties, thence due west to the Missouri River, leaving Davenport and Iowa city in the Upper Iowa Conference, and the intermediate towns on the line in the Iowa Conference.

34. THE UPPER IOWA CONFERENCE shall embrace all that part of the State of Iowa not embraced in the Iowa Conference.

35. THE KANSAS AND NEBRASKA CONFERENCE shall embrace the Kansas and Nebraska Territories, and also that part of the territories of New Mexico and Utah lying east of the Rocky Mountains.

36. THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE shall include that part of Illinois not included in the Southern Illinois Conference, south of the following line, namely: Beginning at Warsaw on the Mississippi River, thence to Vermont, thence to the mouth of Spoon River, thence up the Illinois River to the northwest corner of Mason County, thence to the northeast corner of said county, thence to the junction of the Central, and Alton, and Chicago Railroad, leaving Macanaw Circuit in the Peoria Conference, thence to the southwest corner of Iroquois County, thence east to the Indiana State line.

37. THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Illinois south of the following line: Beginning at Gilead on the Mississippi River in Calhoun County, thence to the northwest corner of Jersey County, thence to the northeast corner of said county, thence to Honey Point, thence to Hillsborough, leaving Hillsborough Station in the Illinois Conference, thence east through Fayette and Effingham Counties to the northwest corner of Jasper County, thence with the north line of Jasper and Crawford Counties to the Wabash River.

38. THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE shall include the State of Missouri, except that part lying south of the Osage River, and west of Miller, Pulaski, and Ashley Counties.

39. THE ARKANSAS CONFERENCE shall include the States of Arkansas and Texas, and so much of the State of Missouri as is not included in the Missouri Conference.

40. THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE shall include all that part of Virginia not embraced in the Western Virginia, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia Conferences, and which is bounded by a line commencing at the mouth of the Rappahannock River, running with said river to the head waters thereof, (including Fredericksburg,) thence by the Blue Ridge to New River, taking in Floyd Circuit, thence by New River to the boundary of the Western Virginia Conference, and the western shore of Maryland, except a small portion included in the Western Virginia Conference, and that part of Pennsylvania lying east of the Alleghany Mountains, and west of the Susquehanna River, including Huntington and Northumberland Districts.



41. THE PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE shall include the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia, the State of Delaware, and all that part of Pennsylvania lying between the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers, except so much as is included in Baltimore, Wyoming, and Newark Conferences, including Naglesville, in Philadelphia Conference.

42. THE NEW-JERSEY CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of New-Jersey lying south of the following line, namely: Beginning with Raritan Bay, and running up said bay and river to New-Brunswick, thence along the turnpike road in a direct line to Lambertville on the Delaware River, including the city of New-Brunswick and Lambertville Station.

43. THE NEWARK CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of New-Jersey not included in the New-Jersey Conference, Staten Island, and so much of the States of New-York and Pennsylvania as is now included in the Paterson and Newton Districts.

44. THE OREGON CONFERENCE shall embrace the Territories of Oregon and Washington.

45. THE CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE shall embrace the State of California, the Sandwich Islands, and so much of the Territories of New-Mexico and Utah as lies west of the Rocky Mountains.

46. THE LIBERIA CONFERENCE.—There shall be an Annual Conference on the western coast of Africa, to be denominated the *Liberia Mission Annual Conference*, possessing all the rights, powers, and privileges of other Annual Conferences, except that of sending delegates to the General Conference, and of drawing its annual dividend from the avails of the Book Concern and of the Charter Fund.

47. THE GERMAN CONFERENCE.—There shall be an Annual Conference in Germany, to be denominated *The German Mission Annual Conference*, embracing also the missions in France and Switzerland where the German language is spoken; which Conference shall possess all the rights, powers, and privileges of other Annual Conferences, except that of sending delegates to the General Conference, and of drawing its annual dividends from the avails of the Book Concern and of the Charter Fund.

#### GERMAN WORK.

1. The Cincinnati and Ohio Districts are connected with the Cincinnati Conference.

2. The North Ohio and Michigan Districts are connected with the North Ohio Conference.

3. The German work now connected with the Southeastern Indiana Conference shall remain connected with that Conference.

4. All the German Missions north of the 42d parallel of latitude, in the State of Iowa, with Galena Station, and Freeport Mission in Illinois; also all the western part of the State of Wisconsin, not now included in the Wisconsin German District, with Minnesota, shall belong to the Upper Iowa Conference.

5. The Wisconsin and Chicago German Districts as they now are, with the exception of Freeport Mission; also all the German Missions in Iowa south of the forty-second parallel of latitude, including Burlington Station

and Farmington and Desmoines Missions, from Quincy District, Illinois Conference, shall belong to the Rock River Conference.

6. The Missouri and Quincy Districts, except so much as lies in Iowa, and so much of Bellville District as lies in the bounds of the Illinois Conference, shall belong to the Illinois Conference.

7. The St. Louis District and so much of the Bellville District as is in the Southern Illinois Conference, shall belong to the Southern Illinois Conference.

8. The German Missions in the East shall remain in connection with the New-York Conference.

9. The German Missions in California are to belong to the California Conference.

The committee present the following resolutions for adoption by this Conference :

1. *Resolved*, That the Bishop presiding at the next session of the New-Hampshire and Vermont Conferences, respectively, be requested to present the question of a re-union of these two Conferences for the action of each ; and if a majority of each of them shall so determine, the two Conferences shall thereafter be one, under the name of the New-Hampshire Conference :

2. *Resolved*, That this General Conference consent that the New-Jersey and Newark Conferences shall hold their next session together, according to their request.

3. *Resolved*, That we deem it inexpedient to publish a map of our several Conference territories.

4. *Resolved*, That Orange Chapel be transferred from the Delaware Conference, and be attached to Cincinnati Conference, and that Plattville be transferred from the Cincinnati Conference and be attached to the Delaware Conference.

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## CC.

### REPORT IN THE CASE OF REUBEN ALDRIDGE.

THE Committee on Itinerancy, to whom was referred the memorial of Reuben Aldridge, beg leave to report that the memorialist was a member of the Missouri Annual Conference in 1844 ; but by the action of the General Conference of that year, and the administration which followed, was left without an appointment until the reorganization of the Missouri Annual Conference of 1848. By virtue of a resolution passed by the General Conference of 1848, the memorialist was allowed, by the Illinois and Missouri Annual Conferences, which held their session together in 1849, the sum of one hundred dollars ; he having been employed, during the interval, in missionary labors. The aforesaid Illinois and Missouri Conferences authorized their Committee on Missions to present the above claim to the Parent Board of Missions at New-York for liquidation, which amount the memorialist avers has never been paid ;

subjecting him to inconvenience and embarrassment. The committee, in view of these facts, recommend for adoption the following resolution, viz. :

*Resolved* by the General Conference in conference assembled, That we recommend to the Parent Board of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to pay to the order of Reuben Aldridge the sum of one hundred dollars, (\$100,) with interest from the time said claim was allowed, to wit, the month of October, 1849.

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## DD.

### REPORT RELATING TO JOURNALS OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

THE Committee on Itinerancy beg leave to report that they have examined the Journals of the several Annual Conferences with care. Some of those Journals are kept with neatness and precision ; in others there were discovered blemishes and inaccuracies which require to be corrected, viz. :

*First.* In some cases the Journals are not paged.

*Second.* In one instance the Journal does not state who presided during most of the sessions of the Conference ; nor is there any statement that the Conference closed with religious services.

In the proceedings of the last two years, there are no tables to indicate the numbers in society, &c., nor any reference to any such statistics.

*Third.* The marginal notes and references are omitted in one of the Journals.

*Fourth.* On one occasion the Journal closes without showing that the minutes of the preceding session were read and approved ; nor do they make any allusion to the appointments of the preachers, as being read out in the usual way.

*Fifth.* One of the Journals presents blots, verbal inaccuracies, and the absence of figures indicating dates and pages.

*Sixth.* There is a failure in some of the Journals to make proper reference to papers, in cases of trial, so as to identify them.

*Seventh.* We record, as exceptionable, the case of a local elder who was received as such into our Church without taking upon him our ordination vows.

We conclude by recommending for adoption the following resolutions, viz. :

1. *Resolved* by the General Conference in conference assembled, That the statistics of the Conference should be entered on the Conference Journals.

2. *Resolved*, That the Secretaries of the several Annual Conferences be instructed to observe greater precision in referring to papers, documents, charges, testimony, &c., so that they may be certainly identified.

## EE.

## ADDRESS ON MISSIONS.

*The General Conference to the Pastors and People of the Methodist Episcopal Church:*

DEAR BRETHREN: We wish to appeal to you in behalf of the missionary cause; and we do this the more earnestly because the missionary treasury is deeply in debt. Next to the regular pastoral work, we regard the missionary cause as by far the most important interest committed to the Church. Indeed, it participates directly and largely in the essential work of the ministry, whose chief duty is to preach the Gospel to every creature under heaven. The missionary cause is intended to aid the ministry to do this great work, under the proper authority and direction of the Church, by calling forth from her bosom the men whom God hath chosen to execute this great commission, and by providing the means necessary to sustain them in their work. This is the high and Divine end which the missionary cause purposes to accomplish. We commend it, dear brethren, to your careful consideration in the sight of God. We believe you will regard it as the most important enterprise which God hath led the Church to propose for the accomplishment of her great commission, which is expressed in these words, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." You will not let temporary embarrassments, or pressing demands for other purposes, interfere with your steady and liberal support of this great essential cause.

But in order to execute this great enterprise wisely and successfully, the Church must act as a body, under some general organization, and not as local Churches, or voluntary societies. This is the judgment of the Church as expressed in her book of Discipline, in the chapter "On the Support of Missions." We earnestly advise and enjoin that this judgment be seriously and universally respected, and that the provisions in the Discipline be prudently applied until all the people are trained to this great work. We will assign some reasons to induce you, dear brethren, to take these our well-considered instructions.

1. The provisions in the Discipline, during four years' experience, have been found, whenever prudently and faithfully applied, to have greatly advanced the missionary spirit and the piety of the Church, and to have increased the missionary contributions from twenty-five to a hundred per cent., and even more.

2. These provisions call into action a large number of the laity, both old and young, under the direction of a judicious committee, of which the pastor is chairman.

3. The whole enterprise is carried on at an expense, *for administration, of not exceeding two per cent. on the whole amount of missionary appropriations.* We think this is unexampled in the history of benevolent enterprises, and it is a weighty reason why you should give your cordial support to the cause; as all you contribute goes directly to it,



with the trifling deduction just named. This very small expense is owing to the fact that no *agents* are employed abroad in the Churches and congregations; but the work is done by the pastors and their people severally; and they do it cheerfully, not only because it is enjoined by the Discipline, but chiefly because it is properly and legitimately the work of the pastor and the Church of which God hath made him the overseer.

4. Because the appropriation of the funds and the appointment of the missionaries are made in a way to command the confidence of the whole Church. The funds are appropriated by a general Missionary Committee, convened once a year from all parts of the Church, from Maine to Missouri, in concurrence with the bishops and the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society. By this joint action the appropriations are made to the foreign missions generally, and to each annual conference. Each conference distributes its own funds among its own domestic missions, according to its judgment. The appointment of the missionaries, both at home and abroad, is made by the bishops, without the interference of the Board of Managers at New-York. The bishops know the men. Thus you will see, the spiritual administration of the missions is entirely distinct from their financial affairs. The bishops, aided by their proper advisers, appoint the missionaries, and look to the Missionary Society to provide the funds. The Missionary Society looks to the Church, from whence alone the funds can be obtained. Just in proportion as the Church falls short in supplying the necessary funds, will the spiritual work, which is in the hands of the proper Church authorities, be curtailed. But we trust in God that no part of the Church will be delinquent in this matter. How simple, how beautiful, how economical, is our missionary system! How great and glorious the end which it proposes! an end in regard to which all are agreed, and to accomplish which every one should regularly and faithfully do his part.

But while we thus commend the missionary cause to your constant and liberal support, and while we say that our hearts have been glad at remembering that it has advanced steadily for years past, in all parts of the Church, we are obliged to confess to some apprehension in regard to the future. This apprehension is a feeling rather than a matter to be clearly stated; and it is possible that it is not well founded. The apprehension has respect to the supply both of missionaries and money. We look to God to raise up the men, while the proper authorities of the Church shall take due care to recognize them, and, if necessary, prepare them somewhat for their great work; and we look to you, dear brethren, for the money necessary to sustain the men whom God shall call to this work.

As we have expressed some apprehension in regard to the regular and sufficient supply of funds, we think it proper to indicate one or two of the causes which we think may be now interfering, and may interfere still more hereafter, with the supply of funds to the missionary treasury. We have learned with regret and serious apprehension that voluntary missionary societies are multiplying in our Churches, which societies not only reserve to themselves the right to dispose of a part or the whole of the funds which they raise for missionary purposes, but

that they do actually so dispose of them independently, and without the knowledge of the missionary authorities of the Church, according to the Discipline. To such an extent is this carried, that the Minutes of some conferences will show that some Churches have contributed some hundreds of dollars, not twenty-five per cent. of which has reached the missionary treasury of the Church, the remainder having been disposed of by these local voluntary missionary societies of which we speak. These missionary societies are, frequently, the only active missionary organizations in their respective Churches; and they apply to the congregations, and obtain contributions on the credit of the general missionary cause, which contributions we judge and advise should be paid into the treasury of the Parent Missionary Society, through the missionary treasuries of their respective Churches, to whose missionary interests these voluntary missionary societies should be auxiliary. This is the true relation of such voluntary missionary associations to the Church and the missionary cause; and in this relation they would be of great service, especially as Sunday-School and Juvenile Missionary Societies.

We further judge and enjoin that each Church, aided by its own presiding elder and pastor, take care that the provisions of the Discipline for the support of missions be carried out, as far as is practicable, among them severally; and that the funds so raised be paid into the treasury of the Parent Society, through their own conference treasury. We do not, by what we have advised and enjoined above, object to the formation of voluntary missionary societies for specific purposes, which are of a local character, and to which individuals and Churches will contribute as they may judge proper, when the specific object of such contributions is presented to them. But we do enjoin that all funds contributed for the general missionary interests of the Church, shall be paid into the treasury of the Parent Society, as directed above. We are of opinion that the failure to do this is one principal cause of the decrease in the missionary contributions of the Church to the general treasury during the last two years; and it is still a cause of serious apprehension with regard to the future steady supply of funds. We are satisfied that the Churches in which these independent missionary societies have been formed, and also the societies themselves, have not been aware of the serious embarrassment which their policy produces. As true friends of the missionary cause, we ask their attention to it. Their example, if they continue their policy, may be followed by other Churches, until, in self-defense, it may become general, and our whole missionary system be materially weakened, and our missionary work curtailed.

We might allude to the seeming withdrawal of the attention of the Church from the missionary cause, by the intense excitement which has recently prevailed in the Church on side issues or secondary questions. We trust that the discussions at this General Conference may abate this intense excitement, and allow the spirit and action of the Church to flow again smoothly and strongly in their proper and legitimate channels. Particularly do we hope and believe that this will be the case as it regards the missionary cause, which seeks to aid the living ministry to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every

creature." Whatever may be our differences of opinion on other questions, we do not disagree on this point. The holy missionary cause, we believe, is above all subordinate or secondary interests and plans, and finds the first and warmest place in the hearts of the people.

In conclusion, allow us to say, our honor, as well as our duty as a Church, is involved in our missionary cause. Our sister Churches and the world are looking to us, and inviting and expecting us to take that place in the great missionary movement of Protestant Christendom, to which our numbers, our wealth, our rapid rise and past energetic action point us. Shall we fail of this just expectation? If our missionary system is executed according to the enlarged plan indicated by the action of this General Conference, it will become the bond of union to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. And we see not why it may not become the common bond of union of the whole family of legitimate Methodism throughout the world, by which each part will help the other, as need may be. We ask you, dear brethren, not to let the temporary inconveniences to yourselves, nor the demands of other interests, interfere with your contributions to the missionary cause; but remember that our work is laid out; the missionaries are in the field, and others are called for; the drafts of the bishops are drawn against the appropriations authorized, and they must not be protested. Will you protect them?

Further, and finally, dear brethren, we ask you to think of the grandeur and glory of this missionary work, and let it have a place in your hearts and in all your plans. In your last wills and testaments let it be one of your heirs for Christ's sake, who has left it to us as a legacy in *his* last will and testament.

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## FF.

### REPORT ON LAY DELEGATION.

THE committee to whom was referred the papers relating to Lay Delegation, beg leave to report:

These papers consist, first, of a communication, signed by sixty-seven laymen in the city of Philadelphia; second, a duplicate of the above from the same place, signed by fifty-six, making one hundred and twenty-three signatures to both papers; third, a memorial from the city of Buffalo, N. Y., signed by seventy laymen and six preachers; fourth, a communication from Geneva, N. Y., signed by the Presiding Elder of the Geneva District, the preacher stationed in Geneva, and sixteen official members of the Church in the same place; fifth, resolutions passed by the Pittsfield Quarterly Conference in the Troy Annual Conference; sixth, resolutions passed by the Quarterly Conference of New-York Mills Station, Oneida Annual Conference; seventh, a petition from two members of Christ Church, Pittsburgh; eighth, one from thirty-one members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Ovid, East Genesee Conference, N. Y.; ninth, one from ten

members in the Elyria Station, North Ohio Conference; and also two communications from Edgar Conkling, a member of Union Chapel, Cincinnati.

Your committee have read all these papers, and carefully considered the suggestions they contain. The first two papers do not purport to be a "petition," but a statement of their "sentiments," by respected and honored brethren, in relation to Lay Delegation in the *General Conference*. The third corroborates the statements of the above, and asks for the same changes. The fourth paper asks that provision may be made in the Discipline for a "Lay Representation" in our Annual Conferences. The fifth asks the General Conference "to so alter the General Rules as to admit of Lay Delegation in that body, and also that of the Annual Conferences." The sixth requests that the Discipline be so amended that the General and Annual Conferences shall be composed of as many lay delegates as clergy. The seventh, eighth, and ninth petition, also, for Lay Delegation in both the General and Annual Conferences. The last two communications pray for sundry modifications in our economy; and also for the General Conference "to provide for lay representatives equal in number to the delegates in the General Conference, the membership in the bounds of each Annual Conference to elect their representatives; and that the General Conference adjourn for one year, when the lay representatives should unite, at which time the secular matters of the Church shall be acted on."

Your committee entered upon the matter before them with a sincere desire to ascertain what is the mind of the Church upon the subject, and what will contribute most to its efficiency and success. No motives of personal interest, they trust, have influenced them; nor have they been influenced by any want of consideration for the character and rights of the laity. The assumption that the lay element fails of recognition in our ecclesiastical economy, or that there is any lack of coöperation between the ministry and the laity in carrying forward the great work of the Church, finds no warrant in our experience as ministers, nor in our history as a Church. Yet your committee are free to say, that could they see any method by which the element of lay influence could be brought into a wider and more active sphere, without destroying the harmony of our organization, and thus periling its stability and efficiency, we would most cheerfully and heartily recommend such method for your adoption. We are happy to learn that some of our Annual Conferences have already, under existing provisions of the Discipline, associated with themselves Lay Stewards, who act as counselors, and participate in discussions upon the financial and temporal interests of the Church. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to determine the practical workings of this system, nor yet the results to which it will finally lead; but your committee believe the subject is worthy of the favorable consideration of all our Annual Conferences.

Again, your committee have not sufficient evidence that the change desired by your memorialists, is demanded by the membership of the Church, nor, indeed, by any considerable portion of them, to warrant present action. In fact, they are convinced that though some wise and good men desire the proposed change, the great body of the Church do not desire it. The subject has been discussed repeatedly in different periods of our history; it was largely discussed four years since, and the attention of our entire membership was called to the subject by circulars,



newspaper discussions, and resolutions passed by conventions. Since then the matter has died away; and the general judgment of the Church, so far as we have the means of ascertaining it, has settled down in the conviction that such a change in our economy is not desirable, or at least not practicable under the circumstances.

For these reasons, and many more, which we find it impossible to embody in a brief report, we are brought to the conclusion that the change in our economy desired by your memorialists, is demanded neither by the exigences of the case, nor by the voice of the Church; and, therefore, we recommend the passage of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That any change in our economy relating to the constitution of our General and Annual Conferences is inexpedient at the present time.

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## GG.

### REPORT RELATING TO A REVISION OF THE RITUALS OF THE CHURCH.

THE Committee on Revision of Discipline, to whom was referred the memorials and resolutions asking for a revision of the rituals of our Church, having maturely considered the subject, beg leave to report:

That they are deeply impressed with the importance to be attached to the ritual forms of the Christian Church, in order to the decency, order, and solemnity of her various administrations. The Church has always had her forms, nor is it possible, in the nature of things, that ordinances should be duly administered and religious worship solemnized without form. But that form should be simple, natural, and appropriate, adapted to convey the meaning and moral of the administration, suggesting to the devout worshiper those sentiments and feelings which the particular occasion was originally intended to inspire. We believe with St. Chrysostom, that as God has made man not an incorporeal being, but with a material body, so he has delivered unto us his truth, not in a spiritual and abstract manner, but clothed in a visible form of words and symbols. The Church, like a living plant, as it develops and enlarges takes on, by a natural law of fitness, just so much of external form and organism as is necessary to give freedom and scope to the operation of the principle of life within it, and which in its turn also may afford protection and nourishment to that fountain of vitality. But if the external organism and form do not naturally grow out of the principle of life, and do not naturally nourish and protect that life, they are only a disease and a burden. And this analogy is corroborated by all the past history of the Church of Christ.

The rituals of our Church relate to the baptism of infants and adults, the Lord's Supper, the ordination of bishops, elders, and deacons, the solemnization of matrimony, and the burial of the dead. Two principal defects attach to them: first, in several instances their simplicity is

impaired by a cumbrous amount of unnecessary verbiage; and, secondly, their pertinency and salutary influence are in a much more serious degree affected by the declaration of sentiments, which are not only irrelevant to the occasion, but in some instances adverse to the genius of our faith and of our Church polity. Nor is this matter of surprise when we consider that our denominational and our Church polity both were borrowed from the rubrics of a foreign Church.

Another fact of great importance affecting the question of revision is, that the irrelevant sentiments which they now express are so interwoven throughout the entire texture of their language as to render it necessary in many instances to take apart its entire structure, and recast the sentences in a different mold. This, we need not remind you, is a very delicate and difficult work, not to be accomplished in a General Conference Committee during the brief and hurried days of a session. It is a work for the private study, to be performed only by long meditation, study, and prayer, and to be finally completed only by the most experienced, deliberate, and competent counsel of the Church.

The idiom of the Prayer Book of the English Church is to be preserved; it is the idiom of our English Bible, sanctified in the hearts and memories of the great Saxon family, and with the history of that Prayer Book, and the venerable forms of the old and half-obsolete English, the mind of the revisers must be thoroughly imbued. Then, when the sentiments which are to be incorporated in our rituals are logically and familiarly mastered, they must be clothed in the smooth, solemn, and stately Saxon, and arranged in an easy, natural order.

The errors in our rituals are greatly mitigated and neutralized on the one hand by the softening terms which we have from time to time introduced, and on the other from important omissions from the English Prayer Book. They do not, therefore, threaten any immediate injury, and with the modifying sense which our denominational faith and piety affix to the language, may continue safely for a while to be used. But their tendency is to beget, by imperceptible advances, a faith in our membership contrary to our standards, and if suffered to remain in future as now, and should our Church ever decline from her present spiritual life and relapse into an inert formalism, she would find in her Discipline the materials to vindicate baptismal regeneration, the apostolical succession of bishops, and the doctrine of three priestly orders.

A large portion of our ministry and membership are grieved to find in our most solemn forms the sanction of doctrines which neither we nor our fathers believe. That baptismal regeneration is the doctrine of the English Prayer Book is constantly admitted and maintained by the ablest standard writers of the Anglican Church; that in a modified form we have copied the Prayer Book in this respect cannot be denied. The Church of England is this day in a state of schism, and even the civil institutions of that country are threatened, strange as it may seem, by the controversy on baptismal regeneration. What the final result will be, both in that country and our own, cannot now be determined. It is a struggle between dead formalism and spiritual life in the Church. And can we bequeath to the next generation the elements of this sad and ill-fated controversy? Can we safely, and we might almost ask, innocently, retain

in our most solemn formularies, with which we wish to imbue the holiest feelings of our membership, these latent elements of superstition? Your committee are frank to declare that it is their conviction that the future peace and edification of the Church require a revision. In view of all the facts in the case, your committee would therefore respectfully submit the following resolutions for the consideration and adoption of the General Conference, to wit:

1. *Resolved*, That a committee of *five* be appointed by the chair to revise the rituals of our Church.

2. *Resolved*, That this committee be instructed to prepare a circular at their earliest meeting, in which all the points involved in the proposed revision shall be stated, and to send a copy of this circular to each member of the present General Conference, who shall consider the same, and return his opinions and suggestions to the committee within three months.

3. *Resolved*, That when the committee shall have received the returned circulars from the members of this Conference, with their opinions and suggestions on the points therein contained, they shall avail themselves of all the information thus suggested, and prepare a revised copy of our rituals, which they shall then lay before the bishops, and the bishops shall have power to make any verbal alterations, and when the rituals shall receive the final approval of the bishops, they shall cause the same to be published, and the rituals thus revised shall thereafter go immediately into use.

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## HH.

### REPORT RELATING TO THE QUARTERLY REVIEW, NATIONAL MAGAZINE, AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVOCATE.

THE Committee on the Book Concern, to whom was referred certain alleged errors in the Report of the Book Agents in regard to the Quarterly Review, National Magazine, and Sunday School Advocate, beg leave to report,

That they have examined the subject in the presence of the Agents and Editors, and, after careful investigation of the *items* of the accounts, and the manner of making them up, they find that these periodicals are charged master's prices on composition, stereotyping, and press-work, and deducting the profits to the Concern on these items, the loss on these publications will be materially reduced. A further reduction of the loss charged will be made if we credit these periodicals with certain assets which belong to them. We also find that the time of making up the accounts prevented these publications from receiving credit for outstanding subscriptions and claims. Yet, after all fair credits are made, it appears they have not fully met the cost of publication.

This may be accounted for, in part at least, by the great advance in price of paper and of labor after the subscription price had been fixed;

and that such an increase in their subscription list as may be reasonably anticipated, and such as their great merits demand, will carry them safely through coming years. From reliable data, the committee would furthermore say that, in their judgment, two thousand seven hundred paying subscribers would fully sustain the Quarterly Review.

In view of these facts, we therefore recommend to the General Conference the continued publication of these periodicals.

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## II.

### PASTORAL ADDRESS.

BELOVED BRETHREN: "Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and from Jesus Christ our Lord," be unto you now and forever.

While we have many reasons to humble ourselves before God, and to mourn over our failures in gaining the benevolent ends so manifestly indicated in the singular providences which brought the Methodist Church into existence, and the extraordinary blessings vouchsafed to us through every period of our history, yet in the present state of the Church there are many grounds for thanksgiving and praise. The Spirit of all grace has been poured out afresh upon our Zion. In the past four years numerous and extensive revivals have been enjoyed throughout the Church; and thousands have experienced "the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost." That our Church is in a high state of prosperity, is sufficiently indicated in the cheering facts, that our effective traveling ministers have increased from four thousand four hundred and fifty to five thousand four hundred and eight, or nine hundred and fifty-eight; and membership, including probationers, from seven hundred and twenty-one thousand eight hundred and four to seven hundred and ninety-nine thousand four hundred and thirty-one, or seventy-nine thousand six hundred and twenty-seven.

But this is not all. The Church has been quickened; many of its members, we trust, are "hungering and thirsting after righteousness," and are "going on to perfection;" thus evincing that the doctrine of entire sanctification is not with them a mere theory, but a substantial and saving reality. And looking over the whole ground, and availing ourselves of every means of information within our reach, *we cannot avoid the conviction* that, though some of our societies may be in a languishing state, the piety of the Church generally is deepening, its faith is becoming more active and comprehensive, its moral power is largely increased, and the blessing of God abideth with us even as in former years, *and more abundantly*. This all-pervading, energizing, and saving grace may not now be manifested precisely in the same manner as in other years. Some of the peculiarities that characterized the work



of God in the early history of the Church, will now be sought for in vain ; but all of the essential features are still visible. The *glory* hath not departed. We have many examples of the same converting power, the same witnessing Spirit, the same grace and purity, and the same glorious triumphs in death, which distinguished the early Church. God is as manifestly with us as with our fathers. The Gospel is still a Gospel of *power*, and is yet preached "with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven ;" and the great Head of the Church yet visibly owns us as his people, and reveals his sovereignty among us in directing his own work, and in vindicating and honoring his own appointed means and instrumentalities. Thus united with Christ, and thus enjoying his covenant blessings, we may gratefully exclaim, "Happy is the people that is in such a case ; yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

Among the many reasons that may be enumerated, calling for devout praise and gratitude, we may mention prominently the cheering fact that the Church yet retains "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." We can conceive of nothing more hostile to the spirituality and prosperity of the Church, and to personal piety, than dissension and strife. "Forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any," is the inspired direction ; and, in the inimitable prayer which our Saviour taught his disciples, we are directed to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses *as* we forgive those who trespass against us." We judge no true Christian can look upon schism in "the body of Christ" in any other light than as a fearful and desolating calamity ; and the careless manner in which the disunion and rending of the Church are frequently spoken of, betokens a great want of "the meekness and gentleness of Christ," and ill comports with our relations to God as redeemed sinners. Nothing but evils of the greatest magnitude—evils that can neither be controlled nor extirpated, but which threaten the vitality and integrity of the Church—can ever justify such propositions. We have reason to fear that the division of the Church, which under almost all conceivable circumstances is the greatest of all possible calamities, has been contemplated by some with entire composure ; and instead of being deprecated with true Christian foresight and zeal, has, under certain contingences, been invited and encouraged. This has been unfriendly to those relations which lead us to "dwell together in unity."

Our unity has also been assailed in other directions. We have fallen upon singular times. New and subtile issues are continually forced upon us. Reform is the watchword of all parties—the universal passport of error to popular favor. Radical changes, antagonizing the social system of the Gospel, have been proposed ; error has assumed new forms, and bland, conciliating aspects ; infidelity has abandoned its gross materialism, and now makes its insidious advances under the guise of spiritualism ; unexplained facts, arising either from mysteries in our own *natures*, or from the misleading teaching of laws, of which, as yet, we have no adequate knowledge, have been resorted to, to render this spiritualism palatable ; and it has been claimed that religious truth opens as legitimate a field of discovery as science, and that man, in the exercise of his own powers, aided by spiritual agents which he can com-

mand, is capable of traveling further into the inscrutable and invisible, than it has pleased the Divine mind to take us.

These insidious errors have been the more dangerous because oftentimes admitting religious truths, and assuming them as a garb, or appealing to well-known physiological laws and mental phenomena, and building its theories upon them. Thus lulling the fears of the unwary, and appealing to the perverted principles of our natures, particularly to human pride and vanity, they have succeeded in leading a few astray, who have either fallen into hopeless and open infidelity, rejecting altogether the teachings of the Gospel, as below their attainments, or have become the victims of insanity. But it is a matter of rejoicing how few have been deceived and turned from their steadfastness. In no instance has any considerable defection been brought about. Our membership "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath set them free," and have not suffered themselves "to be entangled again with the yoke of bondage." They have "tried the spirits" by Bible rules, and have thus escaped these gross delusions. And general revivals of religion, contrasting directly with the results of error, "bringing forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness," elevating and saving men from sin, have fortified their minds against these soul-destroying errors. There has been agitation in the Church itself; and, in some instances, this may have been exhibited in a manner not quite in harmony with Christian meekness. But this very agitation has betrayed, in most instances, the ardent love of our people for the old paths, the land-marks of our beloved Methodism, the institutions, usages, and teachings of our fathers, under which God has vouchsafed us so long and so extensive prosperity. We rejoice that these monuments of the wisdom, zeal, and piety of our fathers have not, amid the rapid changes everywhere marking modern movements, fallen into desuetude. The lessons of the past have not been lost upon our people. In their minds, as it should be, the presumption is against that which is new, and the burden of proof is with its advocates. New measures must either be tried in the balances of the sanctuary or tested by the experience of the past. Bold and rash experiments, though assuming the names of progress and reform, have been justly regarded with suspicion; and as a whole populous Church is to be affected thereby, even where, as in reference to Church usage and polity, real improvement is admissible, it is certainly proper that this rigid surveillance and earnest solicitude should be exercised. With such vigilance and godly jealousy, the agitations of the past four years have been, we trust, on the whole, healthful, developing on one hand a love for Methodism as it is, and on the other leading to the adoption of such well-digested plans for carrying out our great evangelical designs as a mature and godly judgment will approve. Thus, what seemed adverse, has been friendly to our unity; and thus it ever will be while "the God of love and peace dwells among us." Continuing to "walk by the same rule, and to mind the same thing," God will continue to honor us with the same hallowed instrumentality for good; and the energy, activity, and efficiency of the Church will be commensurate with its high vocation, as a Church raised up "to spread Scriptural holiness over these lands."

During the present session of the General Conference many subjects, some of them involving great, if not radical changes, have been under consideration. Petitions and memorials from almost every part of our extended work, have been presented and referred to appropriate committees, where they have received respectful consideration. This has been especially the case on the subject of Slavery.

The position of our Church from the beginning has been that of an anti-slavery Church; and in both slave and free states this is our present attitude. So we are regarded by pro-slavery men, as the persecution of our ministers in some parts of our work, and the apparent necessity of changing the seat of one of our conferences, in order to avoid the notified violence of a mob, clearly prove. The subject has been largely discussed in our periodicals, patiently considered in the Committee on Slavery, and has occupied a large portion of the time of the General Conference, where it has been debated, as you have seen, with eminent ability and the greatest freedom. With its action upon this subject you are already acquainted. The debates brought out fully the fact, that none of the members of this General Conference entertained pro-slavery sentiments, and that little or no mercenary slaveholding exists in the Church. And the effect of such action upon the interests of the border conferences, probably alone prevented a constitutional majority from voting to recommend a change of our General Rule on the subject of slavery. On this subject be temperate and firm; resisting evil, not with carnal weapons, but with immutable truths—"weapons that are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

And now, beloved brethren, will you suffer us to exhort you to prompt and vigorous coöperation with your ministers, in carrying forward the work of God committed to us? "Ye are workers together with him." To this high dignity and honorable distinction in the presence of God, and "a great cloud of witnesses," is every Christian called. And if we "stir up your pure minds, by way of remembrance," it is that we may present you before Christ "holy, and unblamable, and unreprouvable in his sight."

And first we exhort you to give the "most earnest heed" to the training of your children. It is your high privilege as well as your solemn duty, while they are yet infants, to consecrate them to God in baptism. "The promise is unto you and to your children;" and to the mind of the Christian it cannot be a matter of indifference whether or not covenant blessings are secured for his offspring. Bring your "little children to Christ" in baptism, that that heavenly benediction which conveys covenant grace to the soul may fall upon them.

In the early and most eventful period of life, when the conscience is tender and the heart susceptible, instruction devolves upon the parents, and they cannot transfer their duties and responsibilities to others; but, subsequently, the Sabbath school, the common school, and the college, become valuable auxiliaries. We *must* educate. We are shut up to this necessity. Mind will be educated; and we are only to choose as to the manner and direction of its education.

Experience has furnished ample proofs that the Sunday school is the

nursery of the Church. Many of our most eminent ministers, and hundreds of our laymen, whose faith and morals proclaim them living Christians, received their early religious impressions in the Sabbath school. Minds, that otherwise would be employed in every evil work, receiving an education fraught with mischief, are thus, on the Lord's day, directed to religious truth and devotion. Interest is excited, new trains of thought are opened to the mind, religious truths are impressed, books are furnished adapted to the juvenile taste, and calculated at the same time to entertain and improve both the heart and the mind.

Great improvements have been made in our Sabbath-school libraries; and now, in cheapness, variety, and adaptation, they may challenge comparison with any other Sunday-school libraries in this country. Our statistics furnish indubitable evidence of prosperity in this department. We have now ten thousand four hundred and sixty-nine schools, one hundred and thirteen thousand one hundred and fifty-nine officers and teachers, and five hundred and seventy-nine thousand one hundred and twenty-six scholars.

While we rejoice in view of the growing interest and efficiency of Sabbath-school instruction, and while we express our hearty praises to God for the frequent outpouring of his Spirit upon our schools, we can but deplore the indifference manifested by many in regard to this most potent instrumentality for good. To secure the greatest efficiency for our schools, it is essential that all the members of our Church should give them their countenance and aid. He would prove himself unworthy of the name of a Christian who deemed Sabbath-school instruction beneath him; for Christ not only said, "Suffer little children to come unto me," but "took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." We cannot better imitate our Saviour, or more directly advance our own spiritual interest, than by laboring to direct the youthful mind to Christ, and to implant therein great and influential moral and religious truths, that, in the hour of darkness and spiritual conflict, shall hold the soul steady in its high resolves, amid the successive shocks of temptation. It is surely Christ-like to be thus employed in preparing an immortal being for a life of usefulness and purity, and for bliss in the heavenly world. And it is surely matter of serious regret that many members of the Church seem satisfied to commit this important interest entirely to youth, and in many instances to unconverted youth. Not that we would object to the employment of young persons in our schools; but we would have them sustained by the wisdom and counsel, the large experience and mature piety of age. Surely this is a most inviting field for Christian labor, a "field white to the harvest;" and here, if anywhere, we should feel the force of the exhortation, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might."

We have reason to fear due prominence is not given in our schools to teaching a personal spiritual Christianity. Mere intellectual teaching, however thorough and extensive, will not accomplish the end proposed, and is, in our judgment, a desecration of the holy day. The array of officers and teachers, complete discipline, diligent application, all the apparatus and external appliances of the school, cannot secure the end



contemplated in their establishment. We are to teach the lost condition of man, the necessity of the new birth, justification by faith; and we are to guide the youthful mind, penitent through our instrumentality, to Christ, as its only Saviour. Every Sabbath-school teacher, as he enters his class, should hear the voice of Christ saying, "Feed my lambs;" and having furnished the young mind with the simple and saving truths of the Gospel, he should retire to seek God's blessing upon the seed he has sown, that it may yield a harvest, "some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundredfold," to the "praise of the glory of God's grace."

We cannot be too deeply impressed with the importance of educating our sons and daughters. You need not be told that genuine education is as favorable to the progress of Christianity as to the development of mind, and to the health and happiness of the physical man. It should be directed to all our powers; and man is only truly educated when all his powers are thus harmoniously developed. In this country especially, where every individual is charged with high social and civil responsibilities, and where free speech and the pen exert so wide and beneficial an influence, it is the duty of every parent to educate. But there are higher and more influential reasons than even these. God has committed immortal spirits to our charge, and has furnished in their economy, reasons of the most weighty and imperative character, in favor of educating them. It is not because your child is to pursue one of the learned professions, or to prosecute this or that particular business, or for any other merely earthly reason chiefly, that he should be educated, but because he is an *immortal* being. A man's pursuits in this world, though often regarded as the only reason for educating, is, comparatively, a trivial one, and every *Christian* must feel that the weighty and commanding reason is to be found in man's immortality.

We rejoice to see seminaries and colleges rising up on all sides under the sole care and direction of our Church. There are now some seventy seminaries of the first grade, and fourteen colleges and universities under the patronage of the several Annual Conferences. Our educational enterprises have received the manifest approbation of the great Head of the Church. Hundreds of the pupils of these institutions have been brought to Christ, and while learning earthly sciences, have become "wise unto salvation." Extensive revivals of religion have gladdened the hearts of their professors and teachers, and most significantly indicate the approval and favor of God. We trust you will sustain them with your contributions, and that your sons and daughters will enjoy, through them, the advantage of a thorough literary and scientific training. And with Heaven's blessing upon these institutions, subordinating them to our great evangelical work, we doubt not, will largely contribute to our denominational power and efficiency.

The enlargement of our Zion, and the aggressive character of a missionary Church, opening fields of usefulness which it becomes our duty to occupy, lead to increasing calls upon the liberality of our people.

God has given us ability to meet these demands, and there is no reason why, for want of means, the Gospel should be hindered. To this great work of evangelizing the world "we are called in one body." "No man liveth unto himself." Selfishness stands as directly opposed

to the prosperity of man as it does to his happiness ; and both the one and the other are greatly promoted by liberally and systematically sustaining the onward movements of the Church. Almost without means Methodism has accomplished a wonderful work. What, then, will it effect when all the institutions and appliances now being established and adjusted to each other, and to our holy Christianity, are brought into full play, and directed against the strongholds of sin ? If throughout all our history Methodism has doubled itself every thirteen years, with such enlarged and multiplied means and opportunities, with a nicely adjusted and harmonious machinery, reaching every interest, and with "the Spirit of the living God in the wheels," may we not hope to treble and quadruple both our numbers and our usefulness in the same length of time ? A perishing world calls us to greater activity, to more comprehensive plans, to more numerous instrumentalities, to larger sacrifices ; "the love of Christ constraineth us" to undertake new and bolder enterprises for the glory of God, and the salvation of man ; and the great Head of the Church requires us to press every agent, and every available means consistent with rectitude and moral freedom, into the work of evangelizing the world. We trust you will respond to these calls in the spirit of self-denial and enlarged benevolence.

Without referring to many local interests which will naturally fall under your observation in every part of our extended work, and which will be sustained by those immediately connected with them, permit us to call your attention particularly to the cause of missions, both in the domestic and foreign fields. We have to notice here a most commendable liberality, evinced in the increased collections of the past four years over any other quadrennial period. But to maintain our ground, and enter those great and effectual doors opened to us by the providence of God, our general collections must be largely increased. Here, if anywhere, is God's word peculiarly applicable, a Divine truth with countless living illustrations, "The liberal soul deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand." Everywhere, both in our own and in foreign lands, success attends us. "The fields are white to the harvest." But as a Church, missionary in its origin and spirit, we are capable of doing much more. In answer to our prayers, God will raise up laborers, who will boldly respond to the call of the Church, "Here am I ; send me." And we ask that the "riches of your liberality may abound more and more," that this great and glorious work of God may not be hindered. With your ministers enter the mighty conflict with the powers of darkness, and sustain them as God's servants doing his will, until "the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ."

But we should never forget that the mere external movements of the Church, its wealth, numbers, triumphs, do not constitute its strength. "On all the glory there shall be a defense." This defense is found in its living union with God. "The branch cannot bear fruit except it abide in the vine." Mere activity will not supply the want of this union. The parade of means and ordinances, the sound of preparation and the array of agents may all exist, and still the Church be powerless. To be truly aggressive it must be a living Church ; we must walk with God in

order to obtain the moral power to save men. More than to all other instrumentalities combined we owe the success which has marked our history, and which constitutes our distinction in the sight of men and angels, to the fact that our membership have been living Christians. And while this continues to be the case, our progress will continue to be "like the going forth of the morning," and God will still visit us with his blessing, "even as the early and latter rain upon the earth."

That this may be your happy experience, suffer us to warn you against the spirit of speculation now so extensively prevailing throughout the country. Many persons have lost, through this means, their union with God. Many have made "shipwreck of faith and a good conscience," and have proved by sad experience that "they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

With painful feelings we have sometimes noticed neglect of the ordinances of God's house, particularly the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This we deem inconsistent with growth in grace and a life of piety. We can consistently expect Heaven's blessing, the presence and agency of the Holy Spirit, by which spiritual life can only be retained in the soul, when we are living in obedience to God's commandments.

We exhort you to the regular observance of family devotions. In the absence of family religion there is likely to be a low state of personal piety. Love to God and a proper regard for domestic harmony and happiness, which are essentially promoted by regular family devotions and a true Christian solicitude for the welfare of your children, all combine to render this duty imperative. And experience has shown the wisdom of the declaration made by one now with the blessed in heaven, "The prayerless family has God's curse."

You can only hope to enjoy union and communion with God by the use of the means of grace, such as prayer and class-meeting. Whatever may be urged against class-meetings, experience has shown that, at least in the Methodist Church, they are intimately connected with the spirituality and religious prosperity of its members. This needs no better attestation than what is often seen when "times of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord." Then the class-room, long neglected, is filled with Christians eager to enjoy this means of grace. It requires no urgent appeals to induce you to attend the class-meeting. You joyfully exclaim, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go up to the house of the Lord." As you value your own relations to God, and the progress and spirituality of your Church, be faithful in the use of this most interesting and improving means of grace. We cannot, it is true, declare, in this precise form, it is of Divine authority, but we can assert that you are under obligations, as Methodists, to observe it while you continue in your present Church connections. "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is." We close with the language of Paul to the Corinthian Church: "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the love and peace of God shall be with you."

## JJ.

## REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

## ARTICLE I.

THIS association, denominated "The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church," is established for the express purpose of enabling the several Annual Conferences more effectually to extend their missionary labors throughout the United States and elsewhere; and also to assist in the support and promotion of missionary schools and missions in our own and in foreign countries.

## ARTICLE II.

The payment of twenty dollars at one time shall constitute a member for life. Any person paying one hundred and fifty dollars at one time into the treasury shall be an honorary manager for life, and the contribution of five hundred dollars shall constitute the donor an honorary patron for life, both of whom shall be entitled to a seat and the right of speaking, but not of voting, in the Board of Managers.

## ARTICLE III.

The management and disposition of the affairs and property of this Society shall be vested in a Board of Managers, consisting of thirty-two laymen, all being members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and so many clerical members, not exceeding that number, as shall be determined at each annual meeting called for that purpose, each of whom shall be a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and all of whom, both the lay and clerical members, shall be elected at the said annual meeting.

## ARTICLE IV.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be appointed by the General Conference. He shall reside in New-York, and conduct the correspondence of the society, under the direction of the Board. He shall be subject to the direction and control of the Board of Managers, by whom his salary is to be fixed and paid. He shall be exclusively employed in conducting the correspondence of the Society, and, under the direction of the Board, in promoting its general interests, by traveling or otherwise. Should his office become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall have power to provide for the duties of the office until the Bishops, or a majority of them, shall fill the vacancy.

## ARTICLE V.

The Board shall have authority to appoint all the officers required by the charter, and to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings, to



appropriate money to defray incidental expenses, to provide for the support of superannuated missionaries, widows, and orphans of missionaries, who may not be provided for by their Annual Conferences, respectively, it being understood that they shall not receive more than is allowed by the Discipline to other superannuated ministers, their widows and orphans; and to print books for the benefit of Indian and Foreign Missions, and missions in which a foreign language is used, fill vacancies that may occur in their own body during the year, and shall present a statement of its transactions and funds to the Society at its annual meeting, and also shall lay before the General Conference a report of its transactions for the four preceding years, and the state of its funds.

#### ARTICLE VI.

The annual meetings for the election of officers and managers shall be held on the third Monday in November, in the city of New-York, and the term of the service of the officers and managers so elected shall commence January the first following.

#### ARTICLE VII.

At all meetings of the Society, and of the Board, the president, or, in his absence, the vice-president first on the list then present, and in the absence of all the vice-presidents, a member appointed by the meeting for that purpose, shall preside.

#### ARTICLE VIII.

Twenty-five members of each meeting of the Society, and thirteen at each meeting of the Board of Managers, shall be a quorum.

#### ARTICLE IX.

The minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the chairman of the meeting at which the minutes are read and approved.

#### ARTICLE X.

It is recommended that within the bounds of each Annual Conference there be established a Conference Missionary Society, auxiliary to this institution, under such regulations as the conferences shall respectively prescribe.

#### ARTICLE XI.

Any auxiliary society or donor may designate the mission or missions, under the care of this Society, to which they desire any part, or the whole of its funds to be appropriated, which special designation shall be publicly

acknowledged by the Board. But, in the event that more funds are raised for any particular mission than are necessary for its support, the surplus shall be at the disposal of the Society for its general purposes.

## ARTICLE XII.

The Annual Conferences shall be divided into as many mission districts as there are effective superintendents, and there shall be a committee consisting of one from each mission district, to be appointed by the Bishops, and to be called *The General Missionary Committee*. It shall be the duty of this committee to meet annually in the city of New-York, between the 1st and 15th of November, as shall be determined by the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, to act jointly with the Board of Managers, the Corresponding Secretary, and the Treasurer, in fixing the amount which may be drawn for during the ensuing year, and the division of said amount between foreign and domestic missions. Said committee shall, with the concurrence of the Board of Managers, and with the concurrence of at least two of the Bishops, determine what fields shall be occupied or continued as foreign missions, and the number of persons to be employed on said missions, and shall, in conjunction with the Board, estimate the sums necessary for the support of each mission, subject to the approval of two or more of the Bishops. Said committee, with the concurrence of the Board and Bishops as aforesaid, shall determine the amount for which each Bishop may draw for the domestic missions of those conferences over which he shall preside, and he shall not draw on the Treasurer for more than said amount.

*Provided, nevertheless,* That in the intervals between the meetings of the General Missionary Committee, the Board of Managers, with the concurrence of the Bishop who has charge, or is to have charge of the work proposed, may, if they shall deem it important, adopt a new missionary field, and also provide for any unforeseen emergence that may arise; and to meet such demands, may expend any additional sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars.

Should any of the members of said committee, in the interval of the General Conference, go out of office by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Bishop presiding in the conferences where the vacancy shall occur, shall appoint another to fill his place.

Said committee to be amenable to the General Conference, to which it shall make full reports of its doings.

Any expense incurred in the discharge of its duties shall be met by the Treasurer of the Society.

## ARTICLE XIII.

The sums allowed for the support of a missionary shall not exceed the usual allowance of other itinerant preachers. The Bishop or president of the conference, (if the mission be domestic,) and the superintendent, where there is one, and if not, the missionary, (if it be foreign,) shall draw on the Treasurer for the same, in quarterly or half-yearly installments, and they shall always promptly notify the Treasurer of all drafts made by them.

ARTICLE XIV.

Each superintendent of missions, and where there is no superintendent, each missionary, shall make a regular quarterly report to the Corresponding Secretary at New-York, giving information of the state and prospects of the several missions under his care.

ARTICLE XV.

Each missionary shall report to his superintendent once a quarter, in writing, the state and prospects of the special work in which he is engaged.

ARTICLE XVI.

No one shall be acknowledged a missionary, or receive support from the funds of this Society, who has not some definite field assigned to him, or who could not be an effective laborer on a circuit, except as provided for in Article V.

ARTICLE XVII.

This Constitution shall not be altered but by the General Conference upon the recommendation of the Board of Managers, or by the Board, on the recommendation of the General Conference.

A true copy, as approved by the Board of Managers at their meeting, June 18, 1856.

D. TERRY, *Secretary pro tem.*

KK.

FISCAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EXPENSES OF DELEGATES.

The Committee on "Expenses of Delegates" present the following as their fiscal report:

Delegations.	Expenses.	Receipts.	Deficiencies.	Surplus.	Reported as being in Chicago.
New-Hampshire.....	\$412 62	\$ 88 12	\$324 50		
New-York .....	417 44	376 53	40 91		
Troy .....	465 88	226 07	239 81		
New-York East .....	461 48	316 88	144 60		
California .....	909 91	191 60	718 31		
Maine.....	318 85	125 64	193 21		
Vermont.....	280 00	65 88	214 12		
Black River.....	410 50	257 50	153 00		
Western Virginia.....	90 00	110 38		\$20 28	
East Maine.....	352 93	172 02	180 91		
Pittsburgh .....	226 00	354 30		128 30	
Wyoming.....	126 54	73 94	52 60		
Erie .....	240 78	271 58		30 80	
Oneida.....	330 79	248 80	81 99		
		20			

Delegations.	Expenses.	Receipts.	Deficiencies.	Surplus.	Reported as being in Chicago.
East Genesee.....	\$253 44	\$69 73	\$183 71		
North Western Indiana...	42 20	195 60		\$153 40	
Oregon.....	1,168 17	75 90	1,092 27		
Genesee.....	173 98	173 98			
Michigan.....	137 50	149 63		12 13	\$14 12
Ohio.....	98 20	372 48		274 28	
Indiana.....	48 00	142 35		94 35	
North Indiana.....	10 40	101 57		91 17	
Wisconsin.....	180 69	103 08	77 64		34 10
Rock River.....	232 07	307 71		75 64	101 46
North Ohio.....	106 16	259 59		153 43	
Cincinnati.....	53 94	257 82		203 88	
Iowa.....	189 85	162 91	126 94		7 00
Southeastern Indiana....	27 50	126 75		99 25	
Southern Illinois.....	73 07	173 82		100 75	
Illinois.....	157 05	261 03		103 98	
Kentucky.....	27 00	23 40	3 60		
Missouri.....	72 80	41 95	30 85		
Arkansas.....	128 80	13 10	115 70		
Baltimore.....	781 25	294 98	486 27		
Philadelphia.....	425 00	516 85		91 85	
New-England.....	465 02	93 09	371 93		
Providence.....	368 44	114 10	254 34		
New-Jersey.....	428 17	446 51		18 34	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$10,693 27	\$7,267 17	\$5,095 18	\$1,651 93	\$156 68

#### RECAPITULATION.

Whole amount of expenses.....	\$10,693 27
Whole amount of receipts.....	7,267 17
	<hr/>
Whole amount of deficiency.....	\$3,426 10
Reported as being in Chicago.....	\$156 68

JOHN S. PORTER, *Chairman.*

## LL.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education beg leave to submit this as their final report.

The view of our institutions of learning exhibited in the tabular statement annexed, imperfect as it is, affords matter of congratulation. It is presumed that no Church in our country has done more than our own, in proportion to her means, to promote sound learning.

It is very desirable that our literary institutions should report regularly and fully to the General Conference, in order that we may have, as far as possible, a reliable history of our labors, expenditures, and progress, in the department of education.

Your committee suggest that a yearly Educational Register, containing



financial and educational statistics, and reports of the colleges, seminaries, and academies, under the care of the Methodist Episcopal Church, be published by our Book Concern. Perhaps an appendix to the usual calendar would answer the purpose for the present. It should contain, in addition to general information, answers to the following questions concerning each of our institutions, namely :

1. What are the names, salaries, and labors of the president, professors, and tutors ?

2. What is the course of study ?

3. What are the plans of instruction and government ?

4. What is the total number of pupils ?

5. How many are pursuing the regular course ?

6. How many are pious ?

7. How many are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church ?

8. How many are preachers or exhorters ?

9. How many have in view the missionary work ?

10. How many are looking forward to the ministry ?

11. How many were converted after they entered the institution ?

Such an addition to our calendar would afford hints to improvement and matter of encouragement ; while it would awaken interest and call forth the prayers of the Church for our seats of learning, and serve as a vehicle of important information to the superintendents, and to such institutions as are in need of instructors. It is presumed that the increased profits of the calendar thus enlarged, would more than justify the additional expense. Though this would not fully meet the wants of our educational interests, it would, we trust, lead, sooner or later, to a weekly or monthly publication devoted to education, and, perhaps, to an Educational Secretary to superintend the interests of this department of our work, which in importance, perhaps, yields to no other. For want of such guidance we have, in many parts of the land, entered upon plans of doubtful expedience ; called into existence institutions that were not needed and could not be sustained ; employed instructors ill adapted to their vocation ; adopted courses of study greatly defective ; lowered and varied the standard of education, and wasted much of the resources of the Church.

Time, it is true, applies the corrective to these evils, but not without much loss and mortification. Much as we have done, there is a wide field before us. It is, therefore, difficult to set limits to the number of our literary institutions in the newer portions of our country. Your committee think it advisable for our Annual Conferences to keep in mind the distinction between universities and colleges, restricting the former term to institutions that have courses of study additional to the ordinary classical curriculum ; and, also, to distinguish between institutions which have the latter course and the mere academy or preparatory school.

We respectfully suggest, also, that our Annual Conferences fix upon some minimum foundation to be acquired by each institution hereafter to be established, before it shall assume its title, or take rank among our seminaries of learning, and that such foundation be sufficient to give it respectability and a fair prospect of permanence. Although we have no right to limit the number of literary institutions, we have a right to limit our responsibility for their character and support.

In regard to the "course of study," your committee remark that we should not make any material variation from that which has received the sanction of ages, and trained the best minds of modern times. The additions to this course, rendered necessary by the progress of modern science, does not justify any diminution of attention to classical and mathematical studies; and when we consider the improvements in the methods of education which have been made of late years, we cannot think that these additions call for any great increase of the time to be devoted to the course.

One of the greatest demands of the age is for teachers of common schools. Your committee think that our Church has not done what it should to answer this call, and would respectfully ask whether we should not establish, either separately, or in connection with our colleges, Normal Schools for the special purpose of training youth for the profession of teaching. We have in the Normal School of Westminster, England, an excellent model, and in its results, an impressive illustration of the benefits of such an institution.

It is deemed indispensable to press upon the Church the importance of giving all our literary institutions a decidedly religious character. That this has not been overlooked heretofore is evident from the revivals which have occurred within them, but it is presumed that more may be done, by giving greater prominence to the Bible in our courses of study, by establishing a more intimate connection between the seminary and the Church, by organizing Bible classes in connection with the former as well as the latter, and perhaps by establishing catechumen classes for advanced scholars, to train them in that critical period when the passions glow and the world assumes its most attractive forms. Such classes differ from Bible classes in a more thorough organization and a more extended plan; they would develop systematically the truths of Holy Scripture, and the glories of the Christian religion, and thus prevent the young from being attracted by the imposing forms of a spiritless religion and the poetical spiritualism of a Christless faith.

Your committee express the hope that our Church will not fail to observe the annual concert of prayer for colleges, or to offer up daily intercession for all our institutions of learning.

We trust that our ministers will feel increased interest in our seminaries of literature, and manifest this interest by visiting them, and inquiring earnestly how they may serve them. They ought not, however, to limit their attention to schools under our own control. It is our duty to feel a deep concern for the common schools and academies of the republic. Much may be done by Methodist ministers to elevate, to purify, and to extend them, especially in the newer portions of our country. Our agency in this respect should be employed prudently, and in such a manner as to show that we have no sectarian or selfish end in view, but merely desire to do our share in the great work of educating the nation. A large proportion of the youth belong to families under our ministry, and if we fulfill our obligations to them we shall have our full share of influence in the management of common schools and other state literary institutions accorded to us by a public sense of justice without any solicitation on our part.

Your committee beg leave to call attention to a clause in the Discipline, disqualifying teachers for admission into full connection in our Annual Conferences. If the sacred office is not compatible with that of the educator, it is clear that our ministers should not be appointed to institutions of learning. If they are in the discharge of ministerial duties while occupying professors' chairs, why should they be ineligible to take rank with their brethren who are in situations no more sacred? Although they are not recognized as pastors, it is presumable that they do as much pastoral work as those who are so recognized, and receive as much fruit of their labor. Indeed, it may be doubted whether any portions of our work are more blessed by the great "Head of the Church" than our Methodist schools and colleges.

We respectfully submit the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That our institutions of learning be requested to be more prompt and full in reporting their condition to the General Conference.

2. *Resolved*, That the attention of the Book Agents be called to this report.

3. *Resolved*, That our seminaries of learning be commended to the prayers of the Church, and that the annual concert of prayer for colleges be observed in all our congregations.

4. *Resolved*, That the several Annual Conferences be directed to discourage the further multiplication of Methodist colleges and other seminaries of learning, unless when additional schools may be imperatively required for the education of the youth of our Church, and unless these schools may be maintained without materially diminishing the patronage and efficiency of existing institutions.

5. *Resolved*, That in the judgment of this Conference, no institution should hereafter be received as a college under the patronage of our Church until it shall have secured an endowment of one hundred thousand dollars.

6. *Resolved*, That preachers appointed by our bishops to our institutions of learning shall not be deemed ineligible to full connection in our Annual Conferences, if otherwise qualified, and that the Discipline be conformed to this principle.

LITERARY INSTITUTIONS OWNED OR EDUCATIONALLY CONTROLLED BY THE METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Coleges and Universities.	When Inaugu- rated.	Presidents.	Location and Patronizing Conference.	No. of Teachers employed.	Whole number of pupils in 1882.	Value of Col- lege buildings, and furniture.	Endowments.	Other property.	Cost of Appar- atus and Lab- oratory.	No. of Volumes in Library.	Amount of In- debtedness.	The relation of the Church to the property.
Wesleyan University.....	1881	Augustus W. Smith, L.L.D.	Middletown Conn.— N. Y., N. E., N. E., P. M., E. M., N. H., V., T., O., and B. R. Conferences.....	7	149*	\$55,000	\$106,000	....	\$8,025 54,000	13,000	None.	Held by Trus- tees for the Conferences..
Dickinson College.....	1882	Rev. Chas. Collins, D. D....	Carlisle, Pa.—Balt., Phil., and N. J. Con- ferences.....	9	210†	65,000	110,000	....	6,000	27,500	\$17,000	Trustees and Conferences.
Alleghany College.....	1883	Rev. John Barker, D. D....	Meadville, Pa.—Pitts- burgh, Erie, and W. Virginia Conferences, Greencastle, Ind.—All the Indiana Confer- ences.....	7	228†	25,000	66,000	....	2,000	8,000	None.	Trustees for M. E. C.
Indiana Asbury University.	1889	Rev. Daniel Curry, D. D....	Delaware, O.—Ohio Cin., N. Ohio, and W. Vir. Conferences....	7	825†	25,000	65,000	\$5,000	800	6,000	None.	Held by Trus- tees for the Church.
Ohio Wesleyan Univers- ity.....	1843	{ Rev. Edward Thomson, D. D., L. L. D.....	Delaware, O.—Ohio Cin., N. Ohio, and W. Vir. Conferences....	8	511†	50,000	110,000	500	6,000	8,800	2,000	Held by Trus- tees for pa- tronizing Con- ferences.
M'Kendree College.....	1834	Rev. P. Akers, D. D.....	Lebanon, Ill.—Illinois Conference.....	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Lawrence University.....	1849	Rev. Edward Cook, D. D....	Appleton, Wis.—Wis- consin and W. Wis- consin Conferences.....	7	50† 190§	50,000	50,000	20,000	2,500	8,000	27,000	Trustees for Conferences.
Genesee College.....	1850	Rev. Jos. Cummings, D. D.	Lima, N. Y.—Genesee and E. East Genesee Conferences.....	6	80	85,900	103,000	5,000	5,240	8,260	None.	Held by Trus- tees for Con- ferences.
Illinois Wesleyan Uni- versity.....	.....	Rev. C. W. Sears.....	Bloomington.....	..	....	15,000	25,000	8,000	....	....	....	Owned by the State.
Ohio University (origi- nally 1804).....	1850	{ Rev. Solomon Howard, D. D.....	Athens, O.—Ohio Con- ference.....	7	176†	25,000	80,000	10,000	1,500	5,000	None.	Conf. appoints the Trustees.
University of the Pacific..	1851	Rev. M. C. Briggs, A. M....	Santa Clara, Cal.—Cal. Conference.....	8	190†	21,000	**40,000	....	500	....	5,000	Owned by the Trustees.
Brookville College.....	1853	Rev. John W. Locke, A. M....	Brookville, Ind.—S. E. Indiana Conference.	4	125†	10,000	....	....	....	....	3,000	Stockholders.
Iowa Conference Univers- ity.....	1854	{ Rev. Lucien W. Berry, D. D.....	Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.— Iowa Conference.....	9	350†	85,000	50,000	....	....	....	10,000	Iowa Conference.
Hamline University (pre- paratory department or- ganized).....	1854	{ Rev. Jabez Brooks, A. M., Preparatory Department.....	Red Wing, Min.—Wis- consin Conference....	3	190§	38,000	10,000	....	....	500	....	Trustees for Conference.
Northwestern University..	1855	{ Rev. C. T. Hinman, D. D. (deceased).....	Evanston, Ill.—Rock River, Michigan, N. Indiana, N. W. Indi- ana, Iowa, and Illinois Conferences.....	8	10†	16,000	800,000	....	....	1,000	....	Held by Trus- tees for Con- ferences.....



College proper.	College and preparatory.	College.	Preparatory.	College—average.	College proper and preparatory.	Notes.	Apparatus.	Cabinet.										
Fort Wayne College.....	1853	Rev. R. D. Robinson, A. M.	Fort Wayne, Ind.—N. Indiana Conference.....	4	100\$	25,000	....	....	....	....	800	....	....	Owned by N. Ohio Conference.	2,000	....	....	....
Baldwin University.....	1856	Rev. John Wheeler, A. M.	Berea, O.—North Ohio Conference.....	6	238	25,000	60,000	....	1,000	....	....	....	....	Majority of the Ch. Trustees.	8,442	....	....	....
Wilmington University.....	1856	Rev. F. S. Hoyt, A. M.	Salem, Oregon.—Oregon Conference.....	3	100\$	14,442	6,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	Owned by the Conference.	....	....	....	....
Troy University.....	1856	Rev. T. H. Sinex, A. M.	Troy, N. Y.—Troy Conference.....	..	....	....	200,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	Joint Stock.	11,600	....	....	....
Albion Wesleyan Seminary and Female Collegiate Institute.....	1859	Rev. T. H. Sinex, A. M.	Albion, Mich.—Mich. Conference.....	6	399	30,000	20,000	....	500	....	....	....	....	M. E. Church.	10,000	....	....	....
Amenia Seminary.....	1855	Rev. C. D. Foss, A. M.	Amenia, N. Y.—New-York and New-York East Conference.....	7	346	18,500	....	....	1,200	....	....	....	....	Trustees for Church.	....	....	....	....
Asbury Female College.....	1850	Rev. B. F. Rawlins, A. M.	New-Albany, Ind.—Indiana Conference.....	4	125	20,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Private Stock-holders.	....	....	....	....
Asbury Seminary.....	1853	Ira Smith, A. M.	Clugrin Falls, O.—Erie Conference.....	3	175	3,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Owned by Principal.	....	....	....	....
Bakersfield Academy.....	1844	G. S. L. Starks, A. M.	Bakersfield, Vt.—Troy Conference.....	4	130	1,200	....	....	500	....	....	....	....	M. E. Church.	8,000	....	....	....
Baltimore Female College.....	1850	N. C. Brooks, A. M.	Baltimore, Md.—Baltimore Conference.....	4	100	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	M. E. Church.	....	....	....	....
Beaver Female Seminary.....	1855	Rev. S. Baker.	Beaver, Pa.—Pittsburgh Conference.....	4	46	7,500	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	M. E. Church.	....	....	....	....
Bloomington Seminary.....	....	Mrs. Alexander.....	Bloomington, Ind.—Indiana Conference.....	..	100	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Joint Stock Co.	10,000	....	....	....
Bloomfield Male and Female College.....	1853	Hiram Lipe, A. M.	Bloomfield, Ind.—Indiana Conference.....	3	100	1,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Trustees for Conference.	....	....	....	....
Copierstown Seminary and Collegiate Institute.....	1854	Rev. P. D. Hammond, A. B.	Copierstown, N. Y.—Oneida, New-York, and Bk. River Confs. Cassville, Pa.—Baltimore Conference.....	16	400	50,000	....	....	400	....	....	....	....	Joint Stock Co.	....	....	....	....
Cassville Seminary.....	1853	{ Rev. A. Summerfield Hank, A. M. }	Cassville, Pa.—Baltimore Conference.....	4	200	10,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Trustees for Conference.	....	....	....	....
Dickinson Seminary.....	1845	Rev. T. Bowman, D. D.	Williamsport, Pa.—Baltimore Conference.....	4	100	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Joint Stock Co.	....	....	....	....
Danville Seminary.....	....	— Wood, A. M.	Danville, Ill.—Illinois Conference.....	..	....	8,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Trustees for Conference.	....	....	....	....
East Maine Conference Seminary.....	1851	Rev. Loren L. Knox, A. M.	Bucksport, Me.—East Maine Conference.....	8	370	25,000	3,500	8,000	1,000	280	....	....	....	Held by Trustees for Conf.	4,000	....	....	....
Illinois Conference Female College.....	....	Rev. F. Andrus, A. M.	Quincy—Illinois Conference.....	12	255	50,000	40,000	10,000	500	....	....	....	....	Trustees for Conference.	....	....	....	....
Evansville Wesleyan Seminary.....	....	....	Evansville, Wis.—Wisconsin Conference.....	..	....	10,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Trustees for Conference.	....	....	....	....
Female Collegiate Department of Lawrence University.....	1849	Mrs. Eleda A. Blair.	Appleton, Wis.—Wisconsin Conference and West Wisconsin.....	5	205	15,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Held by Trustees for B. R. Conference.	7,000	....	....	....
Falvey Seminary.....	1849	J. Henry Mansfield, A. B.	Fulton, N. Y.—Black River Conference.....	6	285	18,000	....	....	1,500	428	....	....	....	Stock.	8,000	....	....	....
Female Col. and Springfield High School.....	1839	John W. Weakly, A. M.	Springfield, O.—Cincinnati Conference.....	6	292	15,000	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Fort Edward Institute.....	1854	Rev. Joseph E. King, A. M.	Fort Edward, N. Y.—Troy Conference.....	20	1,050	62,000	....	....	925	600	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

\* College proper.

† College and preparatory.

‡ College.

§ Preparatory.

| College—average.

¶ College proper and preparatory.

\*\* Notes.

a Apparatus.

b Cabinet.

[illegible]

				8	500	60,000	...	...	700	500	...	{ Trustees for Conference.
Onondaga Conference Seminary.	1824	Rev. Henry Bannister, D.D.	Cazenovia, N. York.—Onondaga, Genesee, East Genesee, and Wyoming Conferences.	8	500	60,000	...	...	...	...	...	{ Trustees for Conference.
Pennington Seminary and Female College.	1840	Rev. J. T. Crane, A. M.	Pennington, N. J.—N. Jersey Conference.	7	130	23,000	...	...	400	800	11,000	{ Conf. appoints Trustees.
Perry Academy.	1854	H. E. Daniels, A. B.	Perry, N. Y.—Genesee Conference.	7	180	16,750	...	1,278	221	386	8,000	...
Paris Seminary.	1852	C. W. Bowen, A. M.	Portland, Oregon.—Oregon Conference.	3	100	7,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
Portland Academy.	1852	C. L. Kingsley.	East Greenwich, R. I.—Providence Conference.	10	500	7,000	...	12,000	700	500	10,000	{ Owned by Conference.
Providence Conference Seminary.	1840	Rev. G. W. Quereau, A. M.	Pittsburgh, Pa.—Pittsburgh Conference.	7	160	40,000	...	...	...	...	7,000	...
Pittsburgh Female College.	1855	S. L. Yourtee.	Quincy, Ill.—Illinois Conference.	...	...	20,000	...	...	150	...	...	...
Quincy English and German Seminary.	...	J. H. Moore, A. M.	South Dansville, Pa.—East Genesee Conf.	5	156	5,000	...	742	185	145	2,000	...
Richmond Collegiate Institute.	1852	W. S. Hall.	Springfield, Vt.—Vermont Conference.	5	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	{ Owned by Vt. Conference.
Rogersville Union Seminary.	1854	W. H. Covington, A. B.	Shelbyville.	5	320	8,000	...	...	400	300	None	...
Salem Academy.	1848	Rev. —, Wheeler, A. B.	West Poutney, Vt.—Troy Conference.	8	103	15,000	...	...	1,000	750	...	{ Private property.
Springfield Wesleyan Seminary.	...	C. W. Jerome.	Urbana.	8	...	8,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shelbyville Academy.	1884	Rev. Wm. H. Poor.	Walworth, N. Y.—East Genesee Conference.	4	100	6,000	5,500	...	1,000	...	...	{ Controlled by the Church.
Troy Conference Academy.	1855	Rev. —, Miller, A. M.	Wellsburgh, Va.—Pittsburgh Conference.	4	80	6,500	...	...	...	...	1,500	Stockholders.
Urbana Seminary.	1853	H. Vosburgh.	Wilmington, Del.—Philadelphia Conference.	8	180	36,000	...	8,000	...	...	25,000	{ Held by Trustees for Conf.
Walworth Academy.	1840	Sammel H. Nesbit.	Cincinnati, O.—Cincinnati Conference.	15	444	51,000	...	...	3,000	1,360	30,000	Stockholders.
Wellsburgh Female Seminary.	1842	Rev. Geo. Loomis, A. M.	Wilbraham, Mass.—N. England Conference.	10	631	40,000	...	6,000	3,000	2,000	...	{ Trustees for Conference.
Wesleyan Female College.	1825	Rev. Perlee B. Wilber, A. M.	Stanton, Va.	...	...	10,000	...	...	...	...	...	{ Trustees for Church.
Wesleyan Academy.	1851	Rev. Minor Raymond, D.D.	Farrington, O.—Erie Conference.	5	250	12,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wesleyan Female Institute.	1850	Rev. John Wilson, A. M.	Centerville, Ind.—N. Indiana and S. E. Ind. Conferences.	3	75	7,000	...	...	1,000	900	...	M. E. Church.
Western Reserve Seminary.	1850	James Grier, A. M.	Kingston, Pa.	8	400	30,000	...	...	600	1,200	5,000	{ Conf. appoints Trustees.
Whitewater Collegiate Institute.	1850	J. Edward, A. M.		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Worming Conference Seminary.	1846	Rev. Reuben Nelson, A. M.		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

## THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTES.

				3	60	12,000	25,000	...	...	5,000	None	{ Trustees appointed by Conferences.
Methodist General Biblical Institute.	1847	Rev. David Patten, D. D.	Concord, N. H.—New-Engl. and Troy Conf.	3	60	12,000	25,000	...	...	...	...	{ Trustees appointed by Conferences.
Garrett Biblical Institute.	1855	Rev. John Dempster, D. D.	Evansville, Ind.—North-western Conferences.	3	49	6,000	300,000	...	...	1,000	...	...

\* Scholarships.  
† Average.

INSTITUTIONS OWNED OR EDUCATIONALLY CONTROLLED BY THE METHODIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AND UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

**Colleges and Universities.**

1. Whole number of Colleges and Universities.....	19
2. Whole number of Teachers employed.....	105
3. Whole number of Pupils both in Collegiate and Preparatory courses for 1855.....	2,962
4. Value of Buildings, Grounds, and Educational Fixtures.....	\$516,342
5. Amount of Endowments.....	\$1,553,000
6. Value of other Property.....	\$45,000
7. Cost of Apparatus and Cabinets.....	\$36,565
8. Whole number of Volumes in Libraries.....	75,860
9. Whole amount of Indebtedness.....	\$79,442

**Academies, Seminaries, Female Colleges, and Collegiate Institutes.**

1. Whole number.....	68
2. Whole number of Instructors.....	306
3. Pupils in attendance for the year 1855.....	14,572
4. Value of Academic Buildings, Grounds, and Fixtures, estimated....	\$959,850
5. Endowments.....	\$151,000
6. Other Property.....	\$51,515
7. Cost of Apparatus and Cabinets.....	\$27,688
8. Volumes in Libraries.....	22,969
9. Whole Indebtedness.....	\$212,870

**Biblical Institutes.**

1. Whole number of Biblical Institutes.....	2
2. Whole number of Professors.....	6
3. Whole number of Students in 1855.....	109
4. Value of Buildings and Grounds.....	\$18,000
5. Amount of Endowments.....	\$325,000
6. Whole number of Volumes in Libraries.....	6,000

Several blanks. Some of the figures are approximate estimates.

**For all Institutions.**

Total of assets above liabilities.....	\$3,080,395
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**MM.**

**REPORT RELATING TO THE BEQUEST OF JAMES BOURDET.**

The Committee on the Bourdet Bequest, having considered the subject referred to them, submit the following as their report:

In A. D. 1841, James Bourdet, of Champlain, Clinton county, New-York, in his last will and testament, left to the Methodist Episcopal Churches of the United States, one undivided half of his real and personal estate, to be expended by them in Christian and charitable purposes: provided that his nephew, Warren Chapman Dickinson, died without issue.

Said Warren Chapman has since died, having no issue. The committee has no means of knowing the exact amount of the aforesaid legacy, but recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved* by the delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That Solomon Fisk, of Chazy, New-York, and George L. Clark, of Plattsburgh, New-York, be, and they hereby are, appointed commissioners on the part of the Methodist Episcopal Churches, to settle with the executor or executors of the aforesaid estate.

2. *Resolved*, That they pay over the money remaining in their hands, after defraying all necessary expenses, in the manner following, namely: Five hundred dollars to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Chazy, New-York, and the balance, be the same more or less, to the Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



# INDEX.

- Absence, Leave of .....26, 35, 73, 92, 112  
134, 172
- Address of the Bishops.....18, 25, 191
- Address from the British Conference 18  
40, 201
- Address from the British Conference, Reply to the.....40, 181, 202
- Address from the Canada Conference.....43, 48, 203
- Address from the Canada Conference, Reply to the.....48, 181, 206
- Address from the Congregational Union of England and Wales...66, 71, 153, 218
- Address from the Congregational Union, Reply to the 66, 71, 181, 220
- Address from the French Conference.....62, 212
- Address from the French Conference, Reply to the.....164, 216
- Address from the Irish Conference.....44, 45, 48, 208
- Address from the Irish Conference, Reply to the.....48, 105, 210
- Address on Missions.....164, 176, 286
- Agents authorized to settle certain claims.....173
- Agents, Book, elected.....155, 156
- Agents, Book, Quadrennial Reports 35  
37, 234
- Agents and Editors invited within the Bar ..... 36
- Address, Pastoral 14, 40, 174, 176, 294
- Aldridge Reuben.....161, 284
- Annual Conference, place of holding, how changed.....85, 165, 168
- Anti-Slavery Tracts to be published.....148, 149, 150
- Appeal of Burgess Oliver.....88, 105  
106, 129
- Appeal of Demming, J.,.....108, 110
- Appeal of Denniston, E.,.....35, 42
- Appeal of Harlan, L. D.,...31, 47, 48, 49  
54, 163, 179
- Appeal of M'Abee, I. N.,...40, 64, 67, 68
- Appeal of Snow, D. J.,...32, 43, 80, 82
- Appeal of Snow, J. M.,...39, 74, 77, 113
- Appeal of Stokely, N.,.....34, 54, 55
- Appeals from Decisions of the chair.....24, 123, 125, 126
- Appeals, Order of Trying..... 47
- Appeals Trials and 25, 40, 114, 148, 172  
173
- Appeals to Annual Conferences, how tried..... 172
- Appeals to General Conference, how tried..... 173
- Appeals to Quarterly Conferences, how determined..... 170
- Arkansas Conference.....5, 11, 53, 139
- Arnold, Smith, Fund.....27, 41, 272
- Assistant Secretaries.....13, 14, 26, 27
- Baird, I. N., elected Editor of the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate... 159
- Baltimore Conference, 6, 11, 32, 33, 40  
53, 61, 76, 139, 140, 142
- Baltimore Conference may divide itself..... 140
- Band Societies and Bands.....57, 153
- Baptized Children.....101, 132, 133, 134
- Bar of Conference..... 18
- Barker, John, takes his seat..... 42
- Bequest of James Bourdet 135, 138, 182
- Bequest of Noble Melvin.....58, 61, 176
- Beverly, Anthony, takes his seat... 25
- Bible Cause.....14, 41, 85, 86, 266
- Bible Societies, State, Preachers may be appointed Agents of, 119, 171
- Bishops, Address of the.....18, 25, 191
- Bishops authorized to ascertain the vote relating to Missionary Bishops 146
- Bishops character passed..... 130
- Bishops, deceased, widows and orphans of, how paid...41, 124, 134, 135
- Bishops, Missionary, 56, 80, 115, 144  
145, 146, 177, 184
- Bishops, restrictions upon, concerning cities, removed.....166, 170
- Bishops, shall their number be increased.....162, 163, 164, 165
- Black River Conference, 3, 8, 28, 38, 50  
60, 74, 88, 97, 106, 138
- Blanks to be furnished Presiding Elders, Pastors, and Secretaries, 171
- Bloomington Western Charge..... 139
- Book Agents elected..... 155, 156
- Book Agents to provide blank forms, 171
- Book Committees.....152, 154, 181, 182
- Book Concern, 13, 21, 35, 37, 101, 102  
114, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161  
173, 174, 184, 185

- Boundaries, 13, 20, 130, 138, 141, 142  
143, 144, 277
- Bourdet, James, bequest of, 135, 138, 182
- Bowen, Elias, excused..... 92
- British Conference, 18, 40, 46, 179, 181  
211, 212
- British Delegates, 18, 27, 48, 71, 72, 73, 90, 91
- Brooks, Joseph, elected editor of the  
Central Christian Advocate, 167, 168
- Burgess, Oliver..... 88, 105, 106, 129
- California, Book Depository in..... 224
- California Christian Advocate..... 159, 160  
161, 222
- California Christian Advocate, Editor, of, elected..... 167
- California Conference..... 3, 8, 35, 37, 49,  
59, 74, 143, 224
- Canada Conference..... 43, 44, 48, 70, 179  
180, 181, 203, 206
- Canada Delegates..... 43, 44
- Carlton, T., elected Book Agent at  
New-York..... 155
- Central Christian Advocate..... 36, 155,  
156, 158, 167, 168
- Certificates of Election as Delegates  
presented..... 7
- Certificates of Election as Delegates  
to be returned..... 15
- Chairmen and Secretaries of the  
Standing Committees..... 13, 35, 36
- Changing the seat of an Annual  
Conference..... 85, 165, 168
- Character of the Bishops passed..... 130
- Chartered Fund, 121, 123, 174, 175, 274
- Children Baptized..... 101, 132, 133, 134
- Church Extension..... 88, 100, 131, 277
- Church Insurance..... 69
- Church Suits, 46, 130, 221, 245, 276
- Christian Advocate and Journal,  
Editor of, elected..... 157
- Christian Advocate and Journal,  
price may be increased..... 175, 176
- Cincinnati Conference..... 5, 10, 30, 40, 52  
76, 89, 107, 136, 138, 144
- Circulation of Books..... 228
- Clark, D. W., elected Editor of the  
Ladies' Repository..... 159
- Colleges, Methodist, not to be un-  
duly multiplied..... 181
- Colored Membership..... 14, 41, 131, 183
- Colored Youth, Education of, 29, 41, 104  
270
- Committees ordered and appointed:
- , Address of the Irish Confer-  
ence, to reply to the ..... 45, 48
- , Address, Pastoral, to prepare a ..... 14  
40
- , Appeals, Trials, and, on..... 14, 40
- , Arnold Fund, Smith, on the, 27, 41
- , Bequest of James Bourdett,  
on the..... 135, 138
- , Bequest of Noble Melvin,  
on the ..... 58, 59, 61
- , Bible Cause, on the..... 14, 41
- , Book Committees, to nominate ..... 152  
154
- , Book Concern, on the..... 13, 20
- , Boundaries, on..... 13, 20
- , British Conference, to reply  
to the Address of..... 18, 40
- , British Conference, to nomi-  
nate Delegates to..... 109
- , Canada Conference, to reply  
to the Address of..... 44, 48
- , Canada Conference, to nomi-  
nate Delegates to..... 44, 48
- , Chartered Fund, on the..... 121, 123
- , Cheap Commentary, on a..... 89, 100
- , Church Extension 88, 100, 131, 277
- , Colored Membership..... 14, 41
- , Colored Youth, Education of, 29, 41
- , Conference Sessions, to seek  
another place to hold the..... 26
- , Delegates to Canada and  
England, to nominate..... 44, 48, 109
- , Delegation, Lay..... 100, 102
- , Education..... 13, 22
- , Education of Colored Youth 29, 41
- , Episcopacy ..... 13, 19
- , Expenses of the Delegates..... 14, 41
- , French Conference, to reply  
to Address of the..... 62
- , Itinerancy..... 13, 19
- , Irish Conference, to reply to  
Address of the..... 45, 48
- , Lay Delegation..... 100, 102
- , Melvin, N., Bequest of..... 58, 59, 61
- , Metropolitan Church..... 34, 41
- , Missions ..... 13, 21
- , Noble, Rev. J. H., Testimo-  
nial to..... 113, 117
- , Pastoral Address ..... 14, 40
- , Printing ..... 17
- , Public Worship..... 14
- , Revisals..... 13, 23
- , Rules of Order..... 14
- , Simonds, S. D., Case of..... 43, 45
- , Slavery..... 13, 20
- , Smith, Reeder, Memorial of, 113, 117
- , Sunday Schools ..... 13, 23
- , Temperance..... 14, 41
- , Temporal Economy..... 14, 41, 56
- , Tract Cause..... 14, 22
- , Trials and Appeals..... 27, 40

- Committees ordered and appointed :  
 —, Will of James Bourdet...135, 138  
 —, Worship, Public..... 14  
 Conference, Bar of..... 18  
 Conference session opened..... 7  
 Congregational Union of England  
 and Wales.....66, 71, 153, 218, 220  
 Conrad Muth..... 84  
 Constitution of Missionary Society,  
 Revised.....57, 176, 177, 302  
 Cooke, E., takes his seat..... 25  
 Cooper, S. C., excused..... 73  
 Corresponding Secretary, Mission-  
 ary Society elected..... 159  
 Course of Study for German Preach-  
 ers.....154, 188, 189
- Daily Western Christian Advocate 12  
 Decisions of the chair 24, 92, 123, 125, 126  
 Decisions of the chair appealed  
 from.....24, 123, 125, 126  
 Delaware Conference.....139, 143, 144  
 Delegates, British...18, 27, 48, 71, 72, 73  
 90, 91  
 Delegates, Canadian.....43, 44, 70  
 Delegates by Conferences.....3, 7  
 Delegates, Expenses of.....14, 41, 140,  
 141, 178, 180, 305  
 Delegates to the Canada Confer-  
 ence.....44, 48, 151, 178, 179, 180  
 Delegates to the English Confer-  
 ence.....62, 109, 151, 178, 179  
 Delegate, General, of American  
 Bible Society.....86, 90  
 Delegation, Lay.....100, 102, 131, 165  
 Demming, J., Appeal of.....108, 110  
 Denniston, E., Appeal of.....35, 42  
 Depository at St. Louis, 46, 114, 155, 156  
 Detroit Conference.....139  
 Dimmitt, J. G., excused..... 134  
 Discipline, Changes of the...133, 134  
 135, 153, 162, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172  
 181, 185, 186, 187, 193  
 District Stewards to meet an-  
 nually.....166, 169  
 Dress.....85, 165, 169  
 Durbin, J. P., elected Correspond-  
 ing Secretary, Missionary So-  
 ciety..... 159  
 Dustin, M., takes his seat..... 15
- East Genesee Conference...4, 9, 39, 51  
 61, 88, 97, 106, 138  
 East Maine Conference, 4, 8, 28, 38, 50, 88  
 Economy, Temporal...14, 41, 55, 65, 69  
 124, 134  
 Editor of Books instructed..... 167  
 Editors of Annual Conference Pa-  
 pers..... 167  
 Education.....13, 22, 103, 147, 150, 162  
 180, 181, 195, 306  
 Education of Colored Youth 29, 41, 104, 270
- Elections 68, 117, 135, 137, 141, 151, 152  
 155, 162, 163, 164, 165, 167, 168  
 Elliott, C., to be paid his salary... 186  
 Episcopacy, 13, 19, 109, 113, 130, 162, 163  
 Erie Conference, 4, 9, 28, 38, 51, 60, 88, 138  
 Evidence in Trials, exact minutes  
 to be kept..... 170  
 Expenses of Delegates...14, 41, 140, 141  
 178, 180, 305  
 Extension of Time.....45, 69, 70, 78, 79  
 Extension, Church.....88, 100, 131, 277  
 Extra Session of General Confer-  
 ence, how called.....57, 153
- Finley, J. B., excused.....112, 172  
 Floy, James, elected Editor of the  
 National Magazine.....158, 159  
 French Conference.....62, 212, 216  
 Fund, Chartered.....121, 123, 274  
 Fund, Smith Arnold.....27, 41, 272
- Garrett Biblical Institute, 87, 103, 147, 150  
 General Conference, Extra Session,  
 how called.....57, 153  
 General Conference, Invitations to  
 hold next session.....120, 121, 125  
 General Conference, Next Session  
 in Buffalo..... 183  
 General Rule on Slavery, vote to  
 change..... 126  
 Genesee Conference...4, 9, 29, 54, 75, 97  
 107, 135, 138, 178, 179  
 German Conference organized...96, 143  
 German Editor elected..... 160  
 German Editor, Assistant.....163, 167  
 German Editor ex-officio Member  
 of Tract Board, &c.....163, 187  
 German Preachers, Course of Study  
 for.....154, 188, 189  
 German Sunday-school Paper.....102  
 German Work distributed to Con-  
 ferences..... 143  
 Germany, Missionary Funds ap-  
 propriated for publishing in..... 102  
 Gorrie, P. D., takes his seat..... 27  
 Grey Eyes, Squire, introduced .... 37  
 Gurley and Power changed on com-  
 mittees..... 46
- Hannah, Rev. Dr...18, 27, 46, 48, 71, 72  
 73, 90, 91  
 Harlan, L. D., 30, 47, 48, 49, 54, 163, 179  
 Hibbard, F. G., elected Editor of  
 the Northern Christian Advocate 159  
 Hobart Chauncey, takes his seat..... 13  
 Hoboken, report relating to diffi-  
 culties at..... 91  
 Hosmer, M., moving expenses and  
 salary to be paid..... 187  
 Hull, J. H., takes his seat..... 72  
 Illinois Conference.....5, 10, 31, 61, 139  
 Indiana Conference, 4, 9, 29, 39, 51, 62, 139

- Indiana Legislature, thanks to..... 17  
 Insurance, Church..... 69  
 Invitations, General Conference, in 1860.....120, 121, 135  
 Invitation to visit Odd Fellows' Hall..... 103  
 Invitation to visit Reading Rooms 98, 99  
 Iowa Conference, 5, 10, 37, 60, 89 139  
 Irish Conference, 44, 48, 104, 105, 208 210  
 Irish Deputies.....44, 104  
 Itinerancy, 13, 19, 69, 70, 91, 94, 95 114, 129, 130, 161, 162, 178  
  
 Jobson, Rev. F. J., 18, 27, 48, 72, 73, 90, 91  
 Jones, Rev. Richard.....43, 44, 70  
 Journals of Annual Conferences, 161, 285  
  
 Kansas and Nebraska Conference, 139  
 Kentucky Conference.....5, 11, 52, 139  
 Kidder, D. P., thanks to..... 187  
 Kingsley, Calvin, elected Editor of the Western Christian Advocate, 157  
  
 Ladies' Repository, editor elected... 159  
 Lay Delegation, 100, 102, 131, 165, 289  
 Letter from California...43, 45, 46, 47  
 Liberia Annual Conference, 46, 56, 80 81, 84, 115, 143, 144, 146, 147  
 Literary Institutions, Preachers appointed to.....162, 181  
 Livesey, W.....95, 134  
 Local Preachers.....27, 114  
  
 M'Abbe, I. N.....40, 64, 67, 68  
 M'Lean, Hon. Judge, and associates, 119  
 Maine Conference, 3, 8, 37, 49, 53, 59 97, 138  
 Melvin, Noble, bequest of, 58, 61, 62, 176  
 Membership, colored.....14, 41, 131, 183  
 Memorials left in the hands of chairmen of committees..... 130  
 Methodist Quarterly Review, Editor of, elected..... 157  
 Metropolitan Church, 34, 41, 57, 58, 184  
 Michigan Conference, 4, 9, 31, 35, 51 60, 75, 88, 107, 139  
 Minnesota Conference..... 139  
 Missionary Bishops, 56, 80, 81, 96, 115 144, 146, 176, 184  
 Missionary Committee, General Report of.....64, 259  
 Missionary Committee, members of the General, on the Pacific coast, 100 178  
  
 Missionary money may be appropriated to foreign Methodist bodies..... 84  
 Missionary money appropriated to publish Books in Germany..... 102  
 Missionary money contributed and expended in Slave States.....100, 162  
  
 Missionary organization not to be divided in departments..... 84  
 Missionary Seminary.....56, 177  
 Missionary Society, Corresponding Secretary of, elected..... 159  
 Missionary Society, revised Constitution of.....57, 176, 177, 302  
 Missouri, 5, 11, 13, 21, 56, 80, 81, 84 96, 115, 130, 144, 162, 176, 177, 197  
 Missions, Address from the General Conference.....164, 286  
 Missouri Conference.....32, 53, 98, 139  
 Mitchell, J. S., takes his seat..... 172  
  
 Nast W., elected Editor of German Publications ..... 160  
 National Magazine, Report of Book Committee on.....174, 393  
 National Magazine, Editor of, elected.....158, 159  
 Newark Conference.....142, 143, 144  
 New-England Conference...6, 11, 33, 40 53, 76, 98, 136, 138  
 New-Hampshire Conference.....3, 7, 34 49, 74, 87, 138, 144  
 New-Hampshire and Vermont Conferences may unite..... 144  
 New-Jersey Conference.....6, 11, 34, 53 107, 120, 136, 142, 144  
 New-Orleans, Preachers stationed in.....101, 166, 169  
 New Trial may be ordered by a Quarterly Conference.....166, 169  
 New-York Conference...3, 7, 34, 59, 62 87, 89, 108, 138  
 New-York East Conference...3, 8, 24, 27 37, 49, 59, 74, 87, 97, 106, 138  
 Next session to be held in Buffalo, 183  
 Noble, Rev. J. H., Testimonial to 113, 117  
 Northern Christian Advocate, Editor of, elected..... 159  
 Northern Christian Advocate, Report of the Publishing Committee of.....97, 268  
 North Indiana Conference...5, 10, 30, 51 139  
 North Ohio Conference...5, 10, 30, 39, 52 88, 98, 135, 139, 143  
 Northwestern Christian Advocate, Editor of, elected..... 160  
 Northwestern Indiana Conference 4, 9, 30, 139  
 Note on page 210 of the Cincinnati edition of the Discipline, 85, 165, 168, 169  
  
 Odd Fellow's Hall, invitation to visit..... 103  
 Ohio Conference...4, 9, 29, 39, 75, 138  
 Oneida Conference...4, 9, 29, 38, 51, 75 97, 138  
 Opening of the Session of General Conference..... 7



- Orange Chapel, transferred to Cincinnati Conference..... 144
- Order of Trying Appeals..... 47
- Order, Questions of..... 92, 124, 125, 126
- Oregon Conference..... 4, 9, 29, 39, 102, 143
- Orphans, widows and, of Bishops, how paid..... 41, 114, 134
- Pacific Christian Advocate..... 155
- Pacific Christian Advocate, Editor of, elected..... 167
- Pastoral Address... 14, 40, 174, 176, 294
- Pearne, Thomas H., elected Editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate 167
- Peck, George, moving expenses and salary to be paid..... 164
- Peck, Jesse T., moving expenses and salary to be paid..... 176
- Peoria Conference..... 139
- Periodical Department of the Book Concern..... 225
- Philadelphia Conference... 6, 11, 32, 40, 61, 98, 142
- Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, Report of the Publishing Committee of..... 121, 174, 273
- Pittsburgh Christian Advocate, Editor of, elected..... 164
- Pittsburgh Conference... 4, 8, 23, 38, 40, 60, 138
- Plattville transferred to Delaware Conference..... 144
- Poe, A., elected Assistant Book Agent at Cincinnati..... 156
- Porter, James, elected Assistant Book Agent at New-York..... 156
- Power and Gurley, changed on committees..... 46
- Preachers in institutions of learning, may become members of conference..... 181
- Preacher in Charge only, can preside at a trial..... 170
- Presiding Eldership. 45, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95
- Previous question, to what it applies..... 24
- Printing, Committee on..... 17
- Protest of Wisconsin Delegation... 184
- Providence Conference... 6, 11, 33, 53, 89, 98, 138, 178
- Public Worship..... 14, 73, 99, 103, 104, 118
- Publishing Committees..... 162, 185
- Quorum of standing committees... 14
- Quarterly Conferences..... 169, 170
- Quarterly Review, Editor of, elected 157
- Quarterly Review, Report of Book Committee on..... 174
- Ratio of Representation..... 57
- Reports:
- , Anti-Slavery Tracts 148, 149, 150
- , Aldridge, Reuben..... 161, 284
- , Appeal, Trials and, 114, 148, 172, 173
- , Arnold, Smith, Fund..... 272
- , Bible Cause..... 85
- , Book Agents at New-York, 35, 221
- , Book Agents at Cincinnati 37, 234, 256
- , Book Committee at Cincinnati..... 37, 240, 241
- , Book Committee at N. Y. 37, 242
- , Book Concern... 101, 102, 114, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 173, 174, 184, 185
- , Boundaries... 130, 138, 141, 142, 143, 144, 277
- , Chartered Fund... 121, 123, 174, 175, 274
- , Cheap Commentary..... 147
- , Church Extension, 88, 100, 131, 277
- , Church Suits..... 46, 129, 245, 276
- , Colored Members 14, 41, 131, 183, 270
- , Colored Youth, Education of, 104
- , Commentary, Cheap..... 147
- , Depository and Paper at St. Louis..... 256
- , Delegates, Candidates for... 151
- , Delegation, Lay..... 131, 165
- , Education... 103, 147, 150, 162, 180, 181, 306
- , Education of colored youth 104, 270
- , Episcopacy..... 109, 113, 130, 163
- , Expenses of Delegates..... 140, 178, 180, 305
- , Extension of Time. 45, 69, 70, 78, 79
- , General Missionary Committee, 64
- , Hoboken, Difficulties at..... 91
- , Irish Cause..... 104, 105
- , Itinerancy, 69, 70, 78, 91, 114, 129, 130
- , Journals of Annual Conferences..... 161, 285
- , Lay Delegation..... 131, 165
- , Metropolitan Church... 57, 58, 184
- , Missionary Committee, General 64
- , Missions... 56, 80, 81, 84, 94, 115, 120, 144, 162, 176, 177, 286
- , National Magazine..... 174, 393
- , Pastoral Address... 14, 40, 174, 176, 294
- , Pittsburgh Advocate... 121, 173, 174, 273
- , Presiding Eldership..... 91
- , Quarterly Review..... 174, 393
- , Reeder Smith... 113, 117, 131, 184
- , Revisals, 57, 85, 101, 133, 150, 153, 164, 165, 168
- , Rituals of the Church, 105, 168, 391
- , Simonds, S. D..... 46, 47
- , Slavery, 85, 102, 105, 110, 111, 112, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 128

- Reports :  
 —, Slavery Minority.....102, 105  
 —, Slavery, Anti, Tracts, 148, 149, 150  
 —, Smith Arnold Fund..... 108  
 —, Smith, Reeder...113, 117, 131, 184  
 —, Suits, Church.....46, 129  
 —, Sunday School Advocate...101, 174  
 —, Sunday Schools...69, 82, 83, 160  
 —, Temperance .....86, 184  
 —, Temporal Economy...55, 65, 69  
 —, Tract Cause...101, 108, 118, 148  
 —, Trials and Appeals.....114, 148  
 —, Whitten, Elijah..... 62  
 Reports, Quarterly.....170, 393  
 Restrictive Rules, Votes on chang-  
 ing.....126, 145, 154  
 Revisals...57, 85, 101, 133, 150, 153  
 Revised Constitution of the Mis-  
 sionary Society.....57, 176, 177  
 Rituals of the Church.... 105, 168, 391  
 Rock River Conference .....5, 10  
  
 Salaries estimated by Publishing  
 Committees.....185  
 Scandinavian Missions.....130, 176  
 Secretaries.....7, 12, 13, 14, 27  
 Secretaries of Annual Conferences  
 instructed..... 161  
 Secretaries of Annual Conferences  
 to have blanks..... 171  
 Secretary to edit the Journal..... 135  
 Seminary, Missionary..... 56  
 Sermons by Rev. Dr. Hannah and  
 Rev. Mr. Jobson.....48, 71, 72, 73  
 Simonds, S. D.....43, 45, 46, 47  
 Singing, New Chapter on..... 166  
 Slavery....13, 20, 45, 68, 85, 102, 105  
 110, 111, 112, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125  
 126, 128, 148, 149, 150, 199  
 Slavery, Tracts on... 148, 149, 150  
 Smith, Reeder.....113, 117, 131, 184  
 Snow, D. J.....32, 43, 80, 82  
 Snow, J. M.....39, 70, 77, 113, 179  
 Southeastern Indiana Conference. 5, 10  
 32, 52, 136  
 Southern Illinois Conference 5, 10, 32  
 52, 98, 107, 139  
 Statistics.....161, 170  
 Stevens, Abel, takes his seat..... 95  
 Stevens, Abel, elected Editor of the  
 Christian Advocate and Journal 157  
 Stewards, District, to meet annu-  
 ally.....166, 169  
 Stewards may be *nine* instead of  
 seven..... 171  
 Stokeley, Nehemiah.....34, 54, 55  
 Strickland, W. P., thanks to..... 180  
 Study, course of, for German preach-  
 ers.....154, 188, 189  
 Suits, Church.....46, 129  
 Sunday Schools...13, 23, 69, 81, 82, 83  
 101, 160, 171, 186, 187, 197  
 Sunday-School Advocate, 101, 174, 293  
 Sunday-School Paper in the German  
 language..... 102  
 Sunday-School Publications, Editor  
 of, elected..... 108  
 Superannuated Preachers.....166, 169  
 Swormstedt, L., elected Book Agent, 156  
 Swormstedt, L., appropriation to... 183  
  
 Temperance.....14, 41, 86, 184  
 Temporal Economy...14, 41, 55, 65, 69  
 124, 134, 184  
 Thanks.....113, 176, 177, 178, 180, 187  
 Tract Cause 13, 22, 85, 101, 148, 149  
 150, 175, 176, 197  
 Tract Secretary to have assistance 176  
 Traveling Preachers may be tried  
 by a Committee of the Conference 172  
 Trials and Appeals.....25, 40, 114, 148  
 Trial of members only before a  
 Preacher in Charge..... 170  
 Troy Conference 3, 8, 35, 49, 59, 74, 87  
 135, 138  
 Upper Iowa Conference..... 139  
  
 Vermont Conference...3, 8, 27, 28, 38  
 50, 87, 144  
 Vermont and New-Hampshire Con-  
 ferences may unite..... 144  
  
 Watson, J. V., elected Editor of the  
 Northwestern Christian Advo-  
 cate, daily..... 12  
 Western Book Concern..... 170  
 Western Christian Advocate, Editor  
 elected ..... 157  
 Western Virginia Conference...4, 8, 50  
 60, 138  
 West Wisconsin Conference..... 139  
 Whedon, D. D., takes his seat..... 112  
 Whedon, D. D., elected Editor of  
 Quarterly Review..... 157  
 Whitten, Elijah..... 62  
 Will of James Bourdet.....135, 138  
 Williams, B..... 178  
 Widows and orphans of Bishops,  
 how paid.....41, 124, 134  
 Wisconsin Conference 5, 10, 30, 39, 51  
 75, 97, 135, 139, 184  
 Wise, Daniel, excused..... 134  
 Wise, Daniel, elected Editor of the  
 Sunday-School Publications..... 158  
 Wright, Governor, introduced..... 17  
 Wyandott, Squire Gray Eyes, a, in-  
 troduced..... 37  
 Wyoming Conference...4, 8, 28, 38, 138





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